

Senior Adult Day

NASHVILLE—Senior adults often find themselves 'put on the shelf' while they still have years of useful service to give to the church. Southern Baptist churches will be observing the first annual Senior Adult Day on Sunday, May 6. The day will be a special opportunity for churches to recognize the valuable resources their senior adult members can contribute. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

1979 Pastors' Conference Budgetless, Lindsay Says

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Because of a lack of funds, none of the program personnel will receive payment for their appearance at the 1979 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, June 10-11, at the Houston Coliseum, according to Homer G. Lindsay Jr., conference president.

"The only expenses that are being incurred are the cost of printing the program and the rental of the coliseum, which will be defrayed by an offering at the conference," said Lindsay in response to a recent recommendation by conference vice president Cecil Chambers that the

conference make full financial disclosure.

Lindsay said he has asked John Hatch, conference secretary-treasurer, to release a full financial statement following the meeting, which precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, at the Summit and the Astrodome.

"It's good for the pastors to know this kind of information," said Lindsay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Chambers, pastor of Centerville Baptist Church, Anderson, S. C., had

also said he would recommend to the conference that future programs be selected by a committee made up of the president and two pastors appointed by the vice president and the secretary-treasurer.

"That would be fine with me," said Lindsay, "if that's what the pastors want. I wouldn't have minded doing it that way this year. I just did it the way it's always been done before." Traditionally, the president has taken sole responsibility for the program.

Lindsay said the conference in Atlanta in 1978, when Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., was president, "experienced such financial cost, due to the meeting place and the cost of image magnification screens, that the Pastors' Conference of 1979 began the year with no money." He said the 1979 conference will not use the image magnification system used regularly during SBC sessions.

"The conference in Houston will not pay honoraria or travel expense to any of the speakers since all of them are Southern Baptist pastors, evangelists or denominational workers," Lindsay said.

"None of the music personalities will receive any compensation either, including Bill and Gloria Gaither, the only two non-Southern Baptists, who

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Flood Relief Work Continues

By Tim Nicholas

Most of the Pearl River flooding has now receded, leaving thousands of gypsum-smeared front laws and rubbish piled six feet high from Jackson nearly to the Gulf Coast. Out the window along with the soggy gypsum-filled sheetrock and water-logged mattresses, went the day to day routine of thousands of Mississippians, among them, fully 500 Baptist families.

The count from Baptist churches is still incomplete, but estimates of families with flood damages include 140 from Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Jackson; 101 from Jackson's Broadmoor Baptist Church; Richland Baptist Church can only estimate between 50-100 families;

First Baptist in Jackson, between 60-75; Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, with 36 families and 10 member-owned businesses flooded; Flowood Baptist Church has 14; and Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson estimates 30 families with homes, businesses or both flooded.

Alton Fagan, pastor of Wanilla Baptist Church, reported that flood waters buried the church cemetery and came within inches of the back of the church. Water was within a half inch of the pastorium when levels began to fall.

The only church between Monticello and Georgetown, Wanilla Baptist, according to Fagan, has most of the Wanilla community as members. "All but two families," he said, "and they got wet." He estimated 20-25 families in the 95 member church had flooding.

Lost Crops

Many, he said lost crops which they depended on for table food. Fagan has been running a tractor this week, replanting several families' crops. He said he and six deacons helped many in moving out and initial cleanup.

Ken Roberts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Monticello, said people there had more time than those in Jackson to prepare for the flood. As a result of sandbagging efforts, while water rose three to four feet behind the church buildings, none got in.

Still no reports have reached the Baptist Record of any Baptist churches with flooding, though several pastors' homes reported last week had damages.

Actual damages to homes by just water may be difficult to believe without seeing them first hand. One church secretary who had two feet of water in her home received an estimate of \$11,700 for repairs. She, like the majority of victims, had no insurance.

By early this week much of the

cleanup in Mississippi was well under way and many homes had electricity back on and had found temporary housing, at least until the government could arrange to import mobile homes for those displaced.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Disaster Unit, operated by the Brotherhood Department, folded its operation last Tuesday after serving approximately 21,000 meals, according to Rusty Griffin, disaster coordinator.

The unit used about 75 volunteers during its 10 day operation, with one day at Pearl and the rest on the parking lot of Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

This past Saturday about 30 men from the Gulf Coast and Laurel came in to help with cleanup. Their coming had been coordinated by David Myers, Christian Social Ministries director for Hinds-Madison Association, and a disaster coordinator for the area. The volunteers were turned over to Colonial Heights volunteers to help people who couldn't find help on their own.

Falling Off

Myers said that as of Monday, April 30, he had no volunteers lined up for the following weekend. He indicated that perhaps interest in helping was already falling off.

"I think people across the state who have been interested have been settling back into their normal routines," said Myers, a Home Mission Board missionary. The need here, he said, "doesn't seem so acute to the person far beyond."

Bob Rowell, minister of education at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, seemed to agree. He noticed a quick falling off of volunteers ready to help. Though he pointed out numbers of people who stayed out all night several

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Sunday School Board Buys Bible Company

By Bracey Campbell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has completed negotiations to purchase America's oldest Bible publisher, the Philadelphia-based A. J. Holman Division of the J. B. Lippincott Co. from Harper and Row Publishers of New York for \$2.2 million, effective May 1.

The agreement, approved by the board's executive committee, will require no funds from the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget since the Sunday School Board's support comes entirely from the sale of literature and other materials, a board spokesman said.

Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen said, "I consider that this is a very important action in behalf of Southern Baptists, the nation's largest evangelical body. We have been known around the world as a people of the Book."

"It is my dream that the Sunday School Board will become the nation's largest denominational distributor of Scripture. We believe this is in keeping with the faith of our people and the mission of our board."

Cothern said the course of action to purchase an already established Bible publishing agency was taken because of the great difficulty of developing a new line. "This purchase also drasti-

Woman's Seminars Set In Four Cities

Four "Woman's Seminars" will take place in May in four Mississippi cities: Oxford, Clarksdale, Winona, and Tupelo.

The seminars will offer guidelines for a woman's use of time, establishing priorities, setting goals, and communication.

Guest speakers for the four sessions will be Sarah (Mrs. Howard) Taylor of Greenville, and Ethel McKeithen, Baptist Women Director, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

There will be day and night sessions at each place. The day session will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. And the evening sessions will run from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Dates and places are May 17 at First Baptist Church, Oxford; May 21 at

Clarksdale Baptist Church, May 22 at First Baptist Church, Winona, and May 24 at First Baptist Church, Tupelo.

The seminars are for women age 30 and older. Divided conferences will be offered for ages 30-45 and for 46 and up, then the entire group will meet together.

Other offerings of the seminars include suggestions for personal growth, fulfillment in life, and the role of woman in the home, the church, and the community.

Pre-registration is required. A \$5 fee includes a light snack. Send registration no later than one week prior to the seminar to Ethel McKeithen, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Baptist Vins Released

Russian Trades Cattle Car For Sunday School Class

NEW YORK (BP) What one observer called "tough negotiation" by U. S. President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman with a personal concern, resulted in the release from a Soviet prison of Georgi Vins, a Baptist pastor, jailed for religious activities.

Vins, 51, was among four other Soviet dissidents who arrived in New York April 27, and will be joined shortly by their families. Others released in exchange for two Soviet spies are Alexander Ginzberg, Eduard Kuznetsov, Mark Dymshyts, and Valentyn Moroz.

Southern Baptist Convention Presi-

dent Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, Texas, who received a personal call from Carter to inform him of Vins' release, responded with a telegram to Southern Baptist state executive secretaries and state convention presidents urging a prayer of thanksgiving on Sunday, May 12, for Vins' release.

"President Carter called Friday afternoon (April 27) to rejoice with us that through his tough negotiations for months, our brother in Christ, pastor Georgi Vins, and his family have been released from the Soviet Union. The prayers of our people have been answered. I suggest you call Baptists of your state to a day of thanksgiving and intercession, Sunday, May 12. Let us pray for Christians under oppression around the world and thank God for the freedom of Pastor Vins."

The state department said Monday that the Soviet government has authorized all families involved to leave the country. Final travel arrangements had not yet been confirmed.

On the Sunday after he arrived in

New York, Vins, secretary of the dissident Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians — Baptist in the Soviet Union, a group of about 100,000 who broke away from the officially sanctioned all-Union Council of Evangelical Christians — Baptists, attended church and Sunday school at Carter's church in Washington. Also in Washington Baptist World Alliance executive director Robert Denny said, "We rejoice in the release of Georgi Vins and all of the prisoners of conscience. Repeatedly since Pastor Vins was arrested in 1974, the BWA, the European Baptist Federation and the Alliance' Member Body in the USSR have interceded with Soviet officials in Moscow on behalf of Mr. Vins and an uncounted number of other Baptists in Soviet jails. The BWA is ever conscious of the restrictions under which many of our Baptist people work for their faith in many parts of the world. We daily pray for them in their witness under difficult circumstances."

At a New York news conference

after his release, at which Elias Golonka, Southern Baptist missionary to the United Nations, served as his translator, Vins said, "I thank my Lord that I am free. I thank President Carter, the American Congress and all the Christians in the United States — and all the people of good will who have been interceding for the persecuted Christians in the Soviet Union."

First Book

Then Vins paused, smiled and added: "I was delighted that the first book I saw in this hotel in New York was the Bible. For five years I was deprived of this Book. There is no Book that I cherish more."

The background news release from the White House described Vins as "one of the leaders of a grassroots movement among Baptists in the USSR which accused the officially sanctioned All Union Council of Evangelical Christians — Baptists of 'submitting to an atheist government' (Continued on Page 2)

Baptists Fly Aid To Uganda

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries are helping to deliver a plane load of medical supplies to Uganda as a first step toward assisting in rehabilitation of the battle-torn country.

Child Care Planned For SBC Sessions

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Pre-school child care will be provided at South Mair Baptist Church for out-of-town messengers only during the general sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in Houston.

At a cost of \$5 per child per session payable at the time of registration, children born in 1973 or later may be registered for care while parents attend the morning, afternoon and evening sessions of the SBC on Tuesday,

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In a phone interview April 25 from Nairobi, missionary G. Webster Carroll said he and missionary James L. Rice would board a plane for Entebbe on April 26, carrying a delegation of Ugandan officials and representatives of Medical Assistance Program (MAP). He said their plane would be followed by an AIMAIR Cessna 208 carrying 1,000 pounds of medical supplies for Kampala hospitals.

Southern Baptists are financing distribution of the MAP supplies worth more than \$100,000 wholesale. The shipment includes antibiotics, pain relievers, syringes, needles, medicines for treating malaria, bandages and nutritional supplements.

Medicine has not been available to the public in Uganda for five years, says Martin J. Alier, chief counselor to Yussufu K. Lule, head of Uganda's provisional government. One aspirin tablet sells for \$3 to \$5 on the black market.

Carroll said he was given "every assurance of an absolute green light" in continuing Baptist work in Uganda by government ministers on an earlier

flight to Entebbe. Carroll, Rice, MAP representatives Raymond Knighton and Dick Senzig, and the Ugandan delegation had flown to Entebbe earlier, but returned without landing when airport lights failed to operate and the plane lost radio contact with the control tower.

The Ugandan delegation had been in Nairobi for talks with the Kenyan government about aid to their country.

Carroll said the shipment includes four jerrycans of gasoline. They hope to use the gasoline in government vehicles to deliver the first shipment of medicines to Mengo Hospital, the Church of Uganda's hospital in Kampala.

Carroll said more than five tons of supplies from MAP had already arrived in Nairobi. The Rices worked in Nairobi with the organization which clears MAP shipments through customs to obtain clearance for 72 cases of medicine averaging 150 pounds each.

They had originally planned to deliver the supplies overland, but were prevented by continued presence of (Continued on Page 2)



"Thanks For The Sunshine"

A book entitled "Why Me God?" and a muddy houseplant dry in the front yard of a Jackson home that was flooded recently. Jean Hastings, the resident, stoops over discarded parquet flooring to pick up household items. Jean and Ray, her husband, said they've seen "a pulling together that's very evident," among neighbors. Too tired for many emotions, Jean says that in her prayers to God, "I thanked Him a lot for the sunshine." The Hastings, who are Baptists, have had the benefit of the love of Christian friends who have helped with the clean-up labors. Many Mississippians have not experienced Christian love — these are the people who need ministry. Though much of the clean-up is past, the rebuilding of homes and lives is just beginning. Mississippi Baptists have Good News to tell and it can perhaps best be told through a combination of words and deeds. The work won't be over for a long time.

Music Conference To Meet At Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — An imposing array of musicians and speakers will be featured at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, June 10-11 in Houston.

The conference, which will open at Tallowood Baptist Church and hold its closing session on Monday evening, June 11, at First Baptist Church, is one of a series of meetings surrounding the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in Houston.

Speakers include Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, who will deliver four addresses keynoting Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's goal of proclaiming Christ to the entire world in this century.

The opening session, which begins at 7:15 p.m., June 10, features an array of mini-concerts by choirs and musical groups and culminates in the premiere of an anthem commissioned by the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference for the 1979 meeting.

The anthem, "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord," was written by Milburn Price, chairman of the church music department, Furman University, Greenville, S. C., and will be performed by the A Cappella Choir of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas.

Other speakers and business will be interspersed between mini-concerts

by a number of artists and musical groups.

James C. McKinney, music conference president and dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Seminary, will deliver his president's address. William R. O'Brien, secretary for denominational coordination, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., will speak on "A Manifesto of Praise: The Arts in Missions."

Monday morning, June 11, will include special sessions for the members of the Church Music Conference's local church, denominational and music educators divisions. Special interest sessions in the afternoon include a variety of program personnel leading conferences on what is new in music missions, worship resources, handbells and multi-media.

The denominational division includes an address on "The Denomination Caught in the Energy Squeeze," by Gwenn McCormick, director, department of church building planning, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Musical groups and artists include youth choir, Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; church choir, First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.; A Cappella Choir, Harold Payne University, Brownwood, Texas; chapel bells, First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss.; chapel ensemble of sanctuary choir, First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.; church choir, Chinese Baptist Church, Houston; The Alabama Singing Men; The Singing Men, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; The 1979 Texas Baptist All-State Band; the Singing Men of Texas; Jeri Graham, assistant professor of voice, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; James W. Good, professor of church music, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Harold Jones, instructor in church music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; and Jack Coldiron, associate professor of voice, Southwestern Seminary, who will lead congregational worship throughout the conference.

Budgetless

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will come to Houston and sing for an hour on Monday afternoon (June 11) at their own expense," he continued.

He said the choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and the choirs of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., will be flown to Houston at the expense of those churches and that evangelist James Robison, one of the speakers, will furnish an organ, piano and sound system free of charge.

WMU Special Offering Will Buy Love Gifts

WMU Special Day is to be observed by women and girls in Mississippi next Monday, May 7. This special prayer-information-giving emphasis concerns missions items which are of particular concern to members of WMU.

A goal of \$40,000 has been set for the Special Day Offering. Allocations are for such items as love gifts for children of missionaries who are presently enrolled in colleges and universities in

Mississippi. Garaywa maintains, "seminary scholarships for missions volunteers, love gifts for aged ministers in our state, etc."

"A Charge to Keep" is the theme for this year's WMU Special Day Program. The offering has been designated the Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day Offering in honor of "Miss Ed" who served Mississippi Baptists as WMU Executive Secretary prior to her retirement in 1971.

Activities At Astroworld

The Union Baptist Association is arranging special activities at Astroworld, June 13 for the Youth of the Southern Baptist Convention taking place June 12-14, 1979, in Houston.

Astroworld, a Six Flags theme park, is located across the freeway from the Astrodome where the Southern Baptist Rally will be taking place the evening of June 13. Special guests at the rally will be Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows.

The Baptist Youth Day at Astroworld will offer over 65 acres of rides, shows and entertainment including a Christian concert in the Showcase Theater and youth choirs

Sunday School In Automobile

MADRID, Spain — The pastor of the Getafe Baptist Mission in Madrid, Charles W. Whitten, needed to start a class for those wanting to be baptized, but there was no place.

Every nook and corner in the small church's facilities was taken. The mission is an outreach of Villaverde Baptist Church in Madrid and has no funds except from the mother church and its own small congregational offerings.

So Whitten, a Southern Baptist mis-

sionary from Mississippi, parked a car in front of the chapel and started the class in it during the Sunday School hour.

Tickets for Baptist Youth Day at Astroworld will be sold at a discount price of \$6.75 for a one-day ticket (normally \$9.25); and \$12.75 for a two-day ticket (normally \$13.95).

For information or ticket reservations contact: Steve Ray, Youth Education/Recreation Consultant, Union Baptist Association, Houston, Texas, 77002; Phone: (713) 529-3885.

Raleigh, N. C. (BNS) — A "Motorist's Prayer," which has appeared on official state highway maps since 1964 in North Carolina is not a violation of the separation of church and state, a federal judge ruled here.

SBC Pre-Registration Deadline Is May 4

Below is a Southern Baptist Convention pre-registration request form. Clip it, fill it out and mail it, along with fees, along with messenger cards which are properly filled out to: SBC Pre-registration, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

This is for people who wish to simplify the process of getting registered at the SBC meeting in Houston in June.

Those not wishing to pre-register, need to bring their messenger cards

with them to the convention for registration there.

Messenger cards may be obtained by the church from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or from several of the associational directors of missions.

For pre-registration, the deadline for receipt of properly filled in cards is May 4.

Pre-registration is not a necessary step in becoming a SBC messenger. It is just a simplification step.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

Name of person making request _____
1. _____ number of people requesting pre-registration.
2. _____ number of Book of Reports requested.
3. Money enclosed:
a. \$2.00 for each person requesting pre-registration (\$6.00 family maximum) _____
b. \$2.00 for each Book of Reports requested _____
Total Enclosed _____



Disaster Unit Receives Relief Money

The American Dairy Queen Association has presented a check for \$3,000 to Mississippi Baptists for use in the disaster unit ministry. Wayne Hughes, owner of the Dairy Queen on Terry Road, left, delivered the check to Jimmie Smith, center, one of the members of the Task Force working with the disaster unit. At right is David Myers, director of Christian Social Ministries for Hinds-Madison Association. Hughes' brother, Robert, owns two Dairy Queens in Jackson, including the one on High Street which was flooded. J. T. Ray, brother-in-law to the Hughes brothers, and Ted King, are also Jackson Dairy Queen owners. All of the owners are members of the Alta Woods Church, Jackson, where Jimmie Smith is activities director.

Relief Work Continues

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nights to help people escape the flooding.

Rowell said he didn't know whether "the novelty wore off or they were just worn out and had to get back to their responsibilities."

Colonial Heights church, with about a third of its membership flooded and the church itself in a \$2 million building campaign, is offering flood ministries.

Don Pittman, a layman who works in building materials sales, is taking a couple of days each week to coordinate several free services. The church is offering labor for cleanup, labor for installation of sheetrock and molding, and counseling services in purchasing of building materials. Plus the church is offering free counseling in legal, financial and insurance matters, and in filling out government forms for assistance.

"These services are going to church families first," said Rowell, "then to others as resources permit."

For church members, several contractors will be doing repair work in homes on a cost-plus basis, said Rowell.

For the public, the church had a nursery open last week, free. "But our volunteers volunteered out," said Rowell, so the nursery closed. Free lunch was offered up till Monday of this week since the relief van closed

down last week. And the church is restocking pantries and providing bathroom items, linens and some toys to the public.

Some Mennonite cleanup crews worked under Rowell's supervision for several days last week. And Charles Kealhofer, a member of McDowell Road Baptist Church, a fertilizer distributor, was carrying a crew around northeast Jackson disinfecting people's homes, only asking the people to provide the disinfectant.

Len Turner, pastor of Colonial Heights church said that even though the church is in a building campaign, "we really don't plan on curtailing it right now." Turner whose own home was flooded said his greatest ministry was still ahead — in the counseling needs which haven't arisen yet.

Don Goodwin, of Alexandria, Va., a Red Cross volunteer working in Jackson as volunteer agency coordinator during the flooding aftermath, agrees that Baptists' ministry in counseling is several months away, "after we're gone," when people get into the depression stage.

Most are too tired to be depressed. But soon, when things slow down and people have time to think, they will need to know that they have not been forgotten. Baptists can perform their greatest service then, as they are doing now, in helping people in the name of Christ.

Five Fabulous Sundays

New Sunday School Members

April 1 Total	1732
April 8 Total	1588
April 15 Total	1586
April 22 Total	1038
April 29 Total	1039
Grand Total	6983

April 29:

Adams — 14
Alcorn — 5
Attala — 6
Benton — 9
Bolivar — 4
Calhoun — 9
Carroll — 10
Chickasaw — 4
Choctaw — 24
Clarke — 14
Cochise — 9
Covington — 0
DeSoto — 7
Franklin — 12
George — 12
Greene — 8
Grenada — 4
Gulf Coast — 57
Hinds-Madison — 74
Holmes — 10
Humphreys — 2
Itawamba — 7
Jackson — 29
Jasper — 8
Jeff Davis — 5
Jones — 58
Kemper — 16
Lafayette — 16
Lamar — 2
Lauderdale — 65
Lawrence — 5
Leake — 6
Lebanon — 49
Lee — 50
Leflore — 7
Lincoln — 13
Lowndes —

Marion — 8
Marshall — 7
Mississippi — 10
Monroe — 21
Montgomery — 5
Neshoba — 1
New Choctaw — 0
Newton — 5
Noxubee — 12
Oktibbeha — 3
Panola — 16
Pearl River — 36
Perry — 50
Pike — 14
Pontotoc — 35
Prentiss — 6
Quitman — 1
Rankin — 11
Riverside — 11
Scott — 10
Sharkey-Issaquena — 5
Simpson — 2
Smith — 67
Sunflower — 3
Tallahatchie — 3
Tate — 5
Tippah — 23
Tishomingo — 6
Union — 3
Union County — 0
Walthall — 10
Warren — 25
Washington — 11
Wayne — 19
Webster — 0
Winston — 0
Yalobusha — 1
Yazoo — 1
TOTAL: 1039

Directors Of Missions To Gather In Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist directors of missions will hear addresses by a seminary president, marriage enrichment experts and a social services director at their annual meeting, June 10-11.

The 18th annual Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions at the Ramada Inn West, 7787 Katy Freeway, is one of several satellite events around the Southern Baptist Convention sessions in Houston June 12-14 at the Summit.

Directors may select two of four special interest conferences during the two-day meeting. Conferences will feature rural-urban ministries, by James Nelson, social services director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Christian social ministries, Ed Onley, director of church and community ministries, Capital Baptist Association of Oklahoma City; pioneer ministries, Bill Peters, director of missions, Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore.; communications/news media,

John Earl Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Other program features include a closing address by William Pinson, president of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and presentations by Dr. and Mrs. John Drakeford on their ministry in marriage enrichment seminars. He is professor of psychology of religion and counseling at Southwestern Seminary.

J. Thurman George, pastor of Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, Calif., will bring an inspirational message at the close of the first day's session, and Mrs. Len Sehested of Fort Worth, Texas, will lead a conference for women during the special conferences on June 11.

Directors of Missions officers include Herman E. Wooten, Orange, Calif., president; and Eddie Gilstrap, Atlanta, Ga., president-elect. Wilson Brumley, Houston, is the host director.

Pastor's Conference Vows Encouragement

HOUSTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, criticized last year as "negative," promises to "encourage the pastor" when it meets at the Houston Coliseum June 10-11.

The conference is among a number of pre and post convention meetings surrounding the annual Southern Baptist Convention national sessions at a separate location in Houston, the Summit, June 12-14.

Musical highlights include a concert by the popular Bill and Gloria Gaither, Alexandria, Ind., and specials by the Cruse Family, Jacksonville, Texas; Jeanne Rogers, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; and gospel singer Jack Price, Garland, Texas, who also will lead the congregational singing; and the 190-member orchestra and choir of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sermons by Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; W. A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas; and James Robison, evangelist, Hurst, anchor the opening session June 10.

Aid To Uganda

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Amin's troops in the eastern part of Uganda. They decided to deliver at least one shipment of medical supplies by air until that part of the country could be secured.

Carroll, a West Virginian, and Rice, reared in Florida and Virginia, plan to return to Nairobi as soon as they deliver the medical supplies.

Pastors' Conference President Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., says the messages and meeting are designed to be "encouraging to the pastor."

Last year's conference drew a rash of negative comments from readers of state Baptist newspapers who said pastors were unduly criticized by preachers at the sessions and not uplifted.

Messages during three Monday sessions will be brought by James Ponder, head of the Florida Baptist Convention evangelism department; Ralph Stone, pastor, North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Bobby Welch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.; William H. Rickets, pastor, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, Ga.; Clark Hutchinson, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.; Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Penn.; Jimmy Jackson, pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Jerry Vines, pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will conclude the conference with a message Monday night.

Other music includes the choir from First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Lonnie Parsons, a layman from San Antonio, Texas; Claude Rhea, head of the Samford University music department, Birmingham, Ala.; and "Sonshine," from the First Baptist Church youth choir, Jacksonville, Fla.

Baptist Vins Released

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and of discouraging evangelism." The decision of Christians in the Soviet Union has been difficult, observers have noted, in determining how to relate to the government. Some of the "Initiativniki" or dissident Baptists

Child Care

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June 12, the morning and evening sessions, Wednesday June 13; and the morning, afternoon and evening sessions, Thursday, June 14. There is no afternoon session on June 13.

The church is at 4100 South Main St., Houston, Texas 77002. Telephone is 713-529-4187.

Children will be cared for under the following guidelines: Childcare facilities will open one hour before opening of each session and close 30 minutes after the session; an additional \$5 will be charged for children picked up late; no food service will be available; children will be registered by parents and picked up by parents and will be checked in by a registered nurse at the beginning of each session; in case of emergency, the SBC First Aid Committee will be contacted and parents notified.

have chosen a path of confrontation in many cases, while the all Union Council has attempted to continue its ministry within government rule. The church in Kiev where Vins formerly was pastor, finally registered with the government, a move dissident churches have resisted."

Olin Robison, president of Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., where Vins was staying, said "He (Vins) has been without sleep for ages."

"The last week has been the most harrowing thing imaginable. It is almost more than a person could comprehend," said Robison. "Four or five days ago Vins was bumpy across Siberia in a cattle car; this morning he was sitting beside the President of the United States."

Robison, Allen and Charles Trentham, pastor of Washington's First Baptist Church, where President Carter is a member, have constituted themselves as a committee to raise money to help the Vins family and to protect them from the fanatics who would exploit them.

The Sunday School Class Vins attended was taught by Carter. The lesson was about justice.

Buys Bible Company

(Continued from page 1)

would return more than the purchase price. We are very happy to begin this new facet of ministry of the board assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention."

Cotthen said he was also happy to see the Sunday School Board take another step in cementing Nashville's reputation as one of the largest publishers of religious literature in the world.

Founded in 1801, Holman was an independent company until 1961 when it was purchased by J. B. Lippincott. In 1978, Harper and Row, formerly a Bible publisher, purchased the Lippincott company.

The Sunday School Board will con-

tinue the Holman name and the Holman operation as it has been with only minor changes. Ted Andrew, who has been president of Holman, will continue in that position. He will manage the Philadelphia office and supervise the 10 Holman personnel.

Holman publishes King James, New American Standard, Revised Standard, Lamsa and Beck versions of the Bible as well as a number of biblical reference works and a few other religious books.

Serving as the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention is one of the primary responsibilities of the Sunday School Board, which has 1,500 employees.

Cauthen Will Address Carey Graduates; Honorary Doctorates Will Go To Three

Three who have spent their lives ministering to others will be honored at William Carey College's commencement on May 5, when the college awards them honorary doctorates.

Baker James Cauthen will receive the honorary doctor of law degree and will be the commencement speaker at the 10 a.m. service. Miss Harriet L. Mather will be awarded the doctor of humane letters degree, while Beryl Red will be presented the doctor of music degree.

Cauthen, a Texan, this year celebrates his 25th anniversary as executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. He has seen the number of Southern Baptist missionaries triple in the last quarter-century.

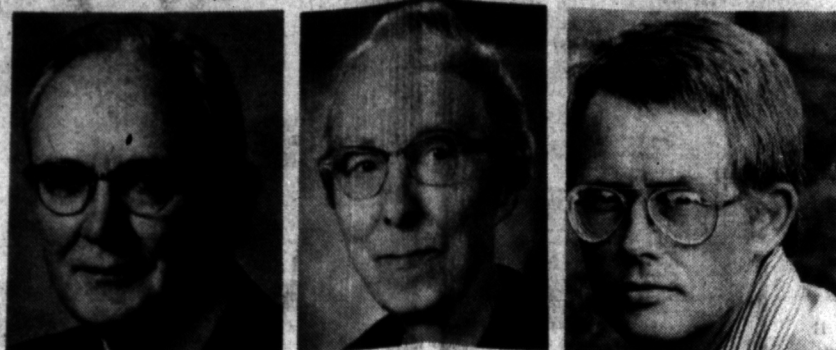
Cauthen's career, begun at 16 when he was licensed to preach, has taken him from the service of several rural Texas churches, to a six-year ministry

at Polytechnic Baptist Church in Fort Worth, to a teaching stint at Southwestern Seminary, to the mission field in China.

Miss Mather, native of Chicago, employed at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans for over 30 years, worked diligently during her long nursing career to upgrade nursing services and responsibilities, as well as the professional status of nursing. In 1943 the school of nursing at Southern Baptist Hospital was named the Mather School in her honor. (In 1969 the Mather School became the William Carey College School of Nursing.)

Now living in St. Petersburg, Fla., she is active member of the American Baptist Church of the Beatitudes.

Beryl Red, native of Arkansas, is a composer and arranger who has provided numerous practical music scores for church and school. His religious musicals include "Celebrate



Cauthen life, "Beginnings," "Lightshine," and "Acts."

While at Holt, Rinehart and Winston publishing company, Red worked as a senior music editor. Later he authored the choral textbooks "Choral Sounds" for high school.

He has also worked with television. His most recent project involved directing the musical aspects of a series called "At Home with the Bible," sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

He is owner and director of BR Productions with offices in New York and Nashville, as well as president of Trigon Music, Triune Music, and Triangle Records.

Sansing Will Speak At Clarke Commencement

Clarke College acting president A. C. Johnson has announced plans for the Clarke College graduation exercises. The event will take place on Thursday, May 10, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Church, Newton.

Speaker for the ceremony will be L. Gordon Sansing of Meridian. Sansing has a long history of association with and support for Clarke College from his graduation in 1937, and has served on the Board of Trustees of the college. He graduated

from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Mississippi College awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

He spent twelve years with the Baptist Convention Board, serving as Secretary of Evangelism for Mississippi. He retired from the pastorate of First Church, Grenada, and has since lived in Meridian. He is pastor of Arrowood Church in Meridian and teaches in the Seminary Extension Center in Lauderdale County.

Music for the graduation ceremonies will be under the direction of Clark Adams and will feature the Clarke College Choir.

Kelly To Deliver BMC Graduation Address To 70

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. — Earl Kelly of Jackson, the executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will deliver the graduation address at Blue Mountain College, Sunday, May 6, 1979.

The commencement speaker is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and earned a master's degree and doctorate in theology from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Kelly has contributed to *The Southern Baptist Encyclopedia* and *The History of Mississippi Baptists* and is the author of *James: A Primer for Christian Living*. He received the "Service To Humanity Award" from Mississippi College in 1975.

Delivering the Baccalaureate sermon the morning of graduation will be John Hopper, pastor of South Side Baptist Church, in Meridian.

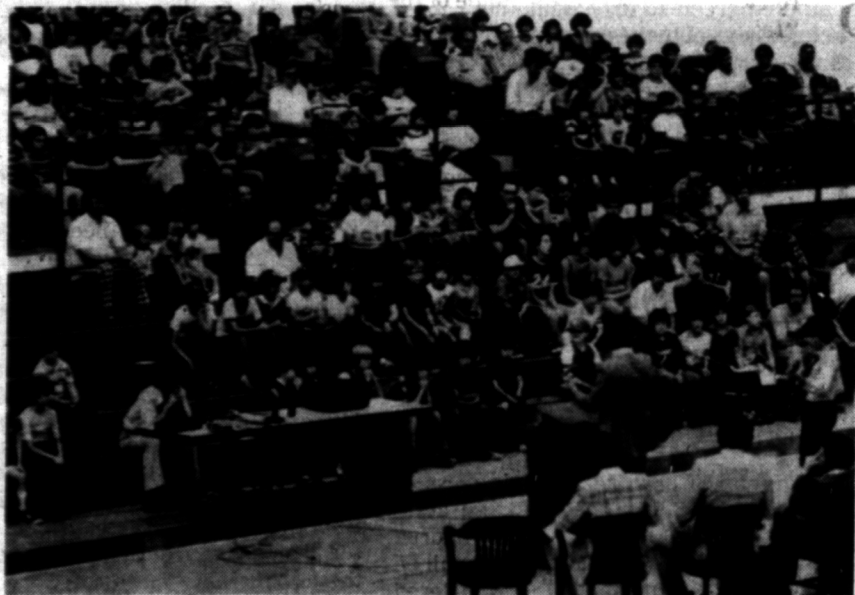
Hopper is a 1959 graduate of Blue Mountain and also from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is on the BMC Board of Trustees.

Blue Mountain expects to award more than 70 degrees during commencement exercises which will take place in Berry Auditorium. The Baccalaureate sermon will also be given in Berry at 11 a.m.

Harold Fisher is president of Blue Mountain College.

Peking (RNS) — The government has decided to finance a new printing of the Koran and to authorize establishment of a Koranic school in Kunming, the capital of the southern Chinese province of Yunnan, Peking Radio announced. Most of China's estimated 25 million Muslims are concentrated in northwestern provinces along the border with the Soviet Union.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — Soil Stewardship Week, which has its origins in the centuries-old tradition of thanking God and asking his blessings for the gifts of nature, will be celebrated across the nation, May 20-27. Theme of the 1979 celebration is "Interdependence." It is expressed by the scriptural verse: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).



Royal Ambassador Congress

Approximately 500 boys participated in the Royal Ambassador Congress which included a track meet and basketball tournament.



At far left in the photo is Ricky Kennedy of Bethel Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, who led the music for the Royal Ambassador Congress at the Mississippi College Coliseum recently. Behind him are Larry Cox, missionary speaker; Bunny Martin, yo-yo champion and devotional speaker; John Stroud, University of Mississippi basketball player; and Rusty Griffin, Brotherhood Department consultant and organizer of the event.

100 Will Graduate June 1 From Mississippi Baptist Seminary

Commencement Exercises for Mississippi Baptist Seminary will be held at the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 140 Maple Street, Jackson, on Friday morning, June 1 at 10 o'clock.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the guest speaker for this occasion.

About 100 men and women from across the state of Mississippi will be graduating from this religious institution, according to Dick Brogan, president.

Gulfshore To Host Four Sunday School Weeks



Bill and Martha Bacon Sunday School Leadership Weeks at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly run from July 30-Aug. 11. There are four sessions within those dates for participants to choose from. The four sessions will be July 30-Aug. 1; Aug. 2-4; Aug. 6-8; and Aug. 9-11. For the first two sessions, Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., will be Bible study leader and speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bacon of First Baptist Church, Clinton, will be music leaders, with Mrs. Larry Salter of First Baptist Church, Brandon, as pianist.

Also on hand the first two weeks will be leaders for individual age group conferences including Mr. and Mrs. Harold Marsh and Al Foy of the Sunday School Board, and Mrs. Judd Allen of Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson.

The second two sessions Aug. 6-8, and Aug. 9-11, will have John Barnes, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, as Bible study leader and J. B. Fowler, pastor of First Baptist Church, McComb, as speaker.

Historical Commission Sets Budget

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Historical Commission re-elected Walter B. Shurden of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., as chairman, and adopted a \$287,000 budget for 1979-80 during its annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

The Southern Baptist Historical Society, meeting jointly with the commission, elected W. Morgan Patterson of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., as president.

In other action, the commission presented its annual Norman W. Cox Award for historical writing to Claude Howe Jr., professor of church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and approved plans to publish Vol. IV of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists," in cooperation with Broadman Press, possibly by 1982.

The commission also authorized appointment of a steering committee to plan a consultation on church membership, in cooperation with the Sunday School Board's Church Training department and other agencies to deal creatively with membership losses.

It is the prerogative of great men only to have great defects. — La Rochefoucauld

Upcoming At Gulfshore

Here's the schedule for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly for the month of May. Groups interested in using the facilities, contact Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571, or phone 452-7261.

4-6 Gulf Coast Single Adult Sunday School class retreat

4-5 Thirty-Eighth Avenue, Hattiesburg, youth retreat

11-13 Keesler Protestant Chaplains

18-19 First Baptist Church, Kenner, La., couples retreat

18-19 Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, youth retreat

18-19 Keesler Protestant Chaplain Airmen retreat

18-19 First Baptist Church, Belle Chase, La. youth retreat

25-26 Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile single adult retreat

25-26 First Baptist Church, Gulfport single adult retreat

26-27 YMCA Leadership retreat

Workshop Planned For Deaf And Interpreters Of Deaf

Carter Bearden, deaf consultant, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., will lead a workshop for the deaf and interpreters of the deaf, May 18-19, at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The workshop will be based on "How to Conduct and Improve a Deaf Ministry in the Local Baptist Church." Bearden will be talking about administration of the deaf ministry and development of leadership skills and roles among the deaf. He is the author of *A Handbook for Religious Interpreters of the Deaf*. Reverse interpreters will be provided for every session of the workshop.

The schedule for the workshop will be Friday, May 18, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

This workshop is sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Richard Alford, language missions consultant.

Work Resumes In Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries have resumed their work in the wake of rioting that left 36 dead and 375 injured in Liberia's capital, Monrovia.

But Bradley D. Brown, chairman of the missionary organization in Liberia, as written to urge prayer on behalf of the nation. "National leadership needs it, and we all do," Brown wrote John E. Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for West Africa.

The riots, which occurred at the start of the Easter weekend, were reported to have resulted from government approval for increases in the price of rice, the staple food of most Liberians. Widespread looting of food stores occurred, and the New York Times reported that damage to government buildings, stores, and other property would run into the tens of millions of dollars.

President William Tolbert called on troops from neighboring Guinea, with which Liberia has a mutual defense treaty, to help bring the riot situation under control. By Easter morning, he had eased curfew regulations and urged his people to attend church.

During the height of the rioting, the United States embassy in Monrovia advised all Americans in the area to remain off the streets. Twenty-four Southern Baptist missionaries live in Monrovia or in the immediate area. No violence was reported outside the capital.

The Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention, Inc., headed by President Tolbert, a Baptist minister, now has more than 180 churches with a membership of some 30,000. Mills said the convention, a strong force in Liberian society, will celebrate its centennial in April, 1980.

Lavon Hatten Is Serving Warren-Yazoo

Lavon Hatten, director of missions for the Carroll and Montgomery Associations for the past twelve years is now director of missions for the Warren and Yazoo Associations. He is living in Vicksburg.

Hatten is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He had held several pastorates in Louisiana and Mississippi before going into the work of associational missions in 1967. He is married to the former Beatrice Diamond from Wiggins, and they have three children.

Norman O'Neal, who had served the Warren Association for four and one-half years on a part-time basis, and who had served the Yazoo Association as a foster missionary, encouraged the two associations to set up a joint full-time program, and resigned effective with the beginning of the new Director's work.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

- May 6 Senior Adult Day (CT Emphasis/SBC)
- May 6-13 Christian Home Week (CAC Emphasis)
- May 7-8 Equipping Center Interpretation Conf. 7:00 p.m. (CT)
- 7-Parkway, Jackson; FBC, Tupelo; FBC, Sardis; 15th Ave., Meridian
- 8-Main St., Hattiesburg; FBC, Greenwood; Easthaven, Brookhaven; East End, Columbus; Grace Memorial, Gulfport
- May 8 Associational Officers Clinic, Camp Garaywa, 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. (WMU)
- May 11-12 Language Leadership Conf., Bapt. Bldg., Jackson, 6:30 p.m., 11th-3:30 p.m., 12th (Cooperative Missions)
- May 12 Selection Tournament, Youth Bible Drill, Bapt. Bldg., Jackson, 1:00 p.m. (CT)
- May 12 Associational Officers' Clinic, FBC, Coffeeville, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (WMU)
- May 12 Youth Speakers' Tournament: Preliminary, Bapt. Bldg., Jackson, 10:00 a.m. (CT)

"When You First Heard About 'Equipping Centers,' Were You Able To Find Directions?.."

... Chances are that you weren't. Why? Because "Equipping Centers" are a whole new idea in Church Training curriculum ... and not a place at all! Why not join us in one of the Interpretation Clinics to be held May 7th and 8th? ...

... for directions, of course.

Equipping Center Interpretation Clinics Locations and Leaders

- May 7
- Jackson, Parkway Bill Latham
- Tupelo, First Jimmy Dunn
- Sardis, First Gene Hendrix
- Meridian, 15th Avenue Dr. Hugh Poole
- May 8
- Hattiesburg, Main Street Bill Latham
- Greenwood, First Dan Wynn
- Brookhaven, Easthaven James Webster
- Columbus, East End Jimmy Dunn
- Gulfport, Grace Memorial Farrell Blankenship



Not a Place but a Concept

7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Also Senior Adult Week . . .

Cooperative Program Emphasis Needed

The short illness and the death of the editor's mother caused a short-circuit in the scheduling of editorial statements on this page. Two emphases were to have been noted and were missed. These were Cooperative Program Sunday on April 29 and Senior Adult Week April 29 to May 6.

Of course, we are still in the midst of Senior Adult Week, so attention may still be drawn to that observation. Of greater importance, however, is the observation that emphasis on senior adults must not be confined to one week during the year.

Generally, there are two considerations that need to be remembered relating to senior adults. One is that they have a great knowledge borne of considerable experience that all of us can use for profit. The other is that they are still too active to be put on a shelf and

left unused.

From senior adults we can find a pattern for faith, patience, and love. Let's take those patterns and use them for the improvement of ourselves.

By the same token, the observance of Cooperative Program day once or twice a year should not be the end of the emphasis on this missions ministry. The Cooperative Program is at work week in and week out to provide the lifeline for all of the missions enterprises that we carry on in our state, all over our nation, and around the world.

These facts are detailed over and over again, and most of us know them by heart. We know what someone is going to say before he says it when he begins to talk about the Cooperative Program.

But in every crowd there is someone

who is not aware of these facts. He is the new Christian. He is the youngster who is just beginning to pay attention to what is being said. He is the fellow who has heard it so much it is commonplace until all of a sudden the real meaning hits him.

Yes, it's all been said before; but let's not hesitate to say it again. And let's not confine our statements on the Cooperative Program to two emphasis times each year.

The ministry of the Cooperative Program for 54 years has been a vehicle by which Southern Baptists have carried on and financed evangelistic endeavors that have circled the globe. This outreach beyond ourselves is necessary, for the Master Himself commanded it.

We have not completed the Great Commission yet. We must continue

unabated the free flow of funds through the Cooperative Program so that we can continue to push the gospel frontier on into places where it has not been established as yet.

Please Forgive Us

Please pardon us for running an editorial for the second straight week in last week's issue. It wasn't intended to be that way.

Perhaps the need for clothes for the children of the Baptist Children's Village is urgent enough that the appeal should have been made twice, but that was not the plan. It just happened.

Please forgive us. We are embarrassed.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"Fruit After His Kind"

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. . . . And the evening and the morning were the third day (Genesis 1:11, 13).

My favorite fruit is the strawberry, but I like bananas too. Often I've over-stuffed on banana pudding at family reunions and church dinners on the ground.

In Brazil I saw bananas growing wild on the mountainsides and hanging in yellow clusters for sale at roadside stands. Missionary Freda Trott bought some small ones at the market in Campina Grande. Her son Paul told me they were apple bananas — and they did taste like apples.

At Gulfport I have watched banana boats unload, and thought some might be from Brazil. But a spokesman for the Port Authority told me that all bananas imported in the state last year came from Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, and Ecuador. He said that between June 1977 and June 1978 Mississippi imported 527,423 tons of bananas.

I visited a Baptist camp a few miles south of Rio, with David Gomes, Brazilian pastor, and his wife Haydee. As we climbed a steep trail, David kept pointing out fruit trees on the camp property, the mango, the orange, the banana. We stopped and looked closely at the banana, and I began to think about what an unusual plant it is.

Actually it is not a tree, for it has no woody trunk or branches. What looks like a trunk is made of long leafstalks wound tightly. As each leaf unrolls it may grow from six to 10 feet long.

At the top of each bunch of bananas I saw some brown shriveled foliage that looked like dead petals. David said there are the same number of these petals as there are bananas on the bunch and when they have all died and fallen off, you can know the bananas are ready to pick.

I always thought that bananas were gathered green so they would not rot before they got to the consumer. But a Book About A Thousand Things said

that if they are permitted to ripen on the plant they will lose their good flavor, the skin will break open, and the fruit will rot.

The World Book Encyclopedia explains the flowering process: "The plant grows to full size after 10 to 15 months and then sends out a huge cluster of flower buds at the end of a thick curved stem which bends toward the ground. A bract which looks like a heavy purple petal rolls back from the bud and shows a row of small flowers within. Some of these flowers turn into tiny green bananas. The flower stalk keeps growing longer as one purple bract after another peels back from the bud and more and more young bananas are formed."

David said that besides the apple banana Brazil has many other kinds of this fruit, including the long earth banana and the frog banana which has more acid than others. The frog and the earth kinds must be cooked before being eaten. The silver banana, one of the most common, he said, is often mashed, and given to children for stomach trouble.

The banana plant, which grows best in warm countries, dies after bearing only one bunch of fruit. New shoots come out from the roots of the mature plants.

I read in a botany book at the Mississippi College library that red-flowered wild bananas are pollinated by birds, and ones with purple and brown flowers are bat pollinated — and that wild bananas are botanically berries, for they have seeds within.

How intricate is this plant, I thought. How well-planned. And it is only one of all the variety of trees and flowers and grasses and herbs that God created for food and beauty. In Colossians Paul wrote, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible."

And Amos, long before Paul's day, wrote, "For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name."

Finally, Paul, in the much more personal and intimate letter of II Timothy, chapter one, verse six, reminds Timothy to "fan into flame again the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands." Paul is not here contradicting his statement about the elders by substituting himself for them. He is currently including himself among the elders who laid hands on the young Timothy; but he is, in this verse, stressing his special personal relationship to Timothy. Neither Paul nor the presbytery is the source of this gift of ministry which came to Timothy. It is from God alone, and they can only witness and confirm it.

Wayne Ward is Professor of Christian Theology at Southern Seminary.

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The Course Is Finished . . .

A Soldier Goes Home

A soldier of the Lord has finished the course and gone home to be with Him. She was my mother; and truly, few have represented the Master here on earth in a more dedicated way than did she.

The companion she left behind has been a preacher for about 50 years, and all during the struggles of that ministry she was right along side helping in what ever way she found to serve. Indeed, hers was a ministry of its own.

The family was small — only three of us. And when the farmer surrendered to the ministry there had to be more income for the family than his working on the campus to pay his way through Baylor University. The housewife went to work in the garment industry in Waco to provide income for the family.

During the early days in the small pastorate she was as much a part of the pastoral team as he was. She was a friend wherever she was needed, and that had its impact on the communities.

During World War II her preacher-

husband was a chaplain in the Army on dangerous troop ship convoys across the Atlantic and finally was stationed in England in the staging area for the invasion of Europe. She was left alone in Waco when her only child went into combat in Europe, and then she received the dreaded message from the War Department that he was missing in action. But she fought on to keep a home base established, and finally the word came that the son was a prisoner of the German Army.

It was quite a reunion when the son arrived back in the States. She was always a good cook, and there hadn't been much to eat in Germany.

Shortly after, the husband and father returned and began work on a Master's degree. My mother went back to the garment factory. At the same commencement service I received my bachelor of arts degree and my father received his master of arts. During the war my mother, who had spent so much time in supporting the education effort, did a great deal of work at Baylor herself.

Soon came the opportunity for even a greater ministry, perhaps. In 1948

my father became the director of missions for Hope Association in Arkansas, living in Texarkana. He remained in this position for 22 years until his retirement in 1970. Many young preachers received advice from "Mrs. Mish" that could not have been found anywhere else. During those years the two of them, working together, helped start new preachers on their careers and helped start new churches on their paths of service.

They were members of Beech Street Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark., and through all the 31 years of her residence there she served that church in any way she could find to do so. She was especially active in the WMU and in Sunday School. She was a teacher until her eyesight began to fail and studying became too difficult. Upon her death a memorial in her name was established for the Beech Street building fund because of her love for the church.

The love was reciprocated, and the simple and eloquent funeral service was attended by several hundred members.

During her lifetime, which began in

the Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina, she traveled from coast to coast and from Canada to Cuba. She loved to attend the Southern Baptist Convention sessions, and she especially loved Home Mission Weeks at Ridgecrest.

She was a farm girl — from hillbilly stock, if you will. She lived a full life of 80 years and was active until it was almost over. On Easter Sunday, just a week before her death, all of her descendants were at her home for one of the meals that had become legendary amongst us. It was a fitting climax for a long and faithful life, though at that time no one was aware that it was almost over.

The three grandchildren loved her dearly, but the youngest, the 22-year-old in Atlanta, Ga., had said he didn't believe he could make the Easter Sunday gathering.

On Thursday he called to say he would be there. The circle was complete.

To the many who offered words of sympathy and comfort, please accept my deep appreciation. — DTM

Guest Opinion . . .

The Biblical Background Of Ordination

By Wayne Ward

Part Two:

Setting Apart to Religious Office

In a previous article on the biblical background of Christian ordination, we surveyed the scriptural evidence concerning the one visible sign which runs through all ordination practice in Christianity, and Judaism as well; the ritual of laying on hands. In this article we will trace the scriptural evidence for the one consistent inner meaning which runs through all forms of Christian ordination: the "setting apart" or "consecration" of a person to the vocation of Christian ministry.

In beginning this second part of our biblical study, it will be useful to summarize the implications of the scriptural practice of "laying on hands" for Christian ordination:

1. By laying on hands the people of God are invoking a divine blessing and symbolically bestowing a spiritual blessing upon the recipient.

2. The "people of Israel" or the "whole congregation of believers" in the New Testament are, by this act, confirming the choice of certain "spirit-filled" persons to minister to them and in their behalf.

3. By laying on hands, the people were showing that something of themselves actually was transferred to the recipient: their personal concern, their ongoing prayers, their trust and support.

4. The act sometimes demonstrated publicly a succession of leadership (Moses to Joshua, Paul to Timothy).

5. The coming of the Spirit in power, without the ritual of hands, reminds us that God is sovereign and free, choosing and empowering whomever he wills to be his ministers, unfettered by an ecclesiastical ritual of succession.

6. Finally, laying on hands may signify spiritual endowment for a particular Christian mission or activity, within a limited time span, and without signifying a permanent ecclesiastical office.

Consecration to Religious Office in the Old Testament

We have already examined the text in Numbers 8 and the consecration of the Levites, with particular attention to the "laying on of hands." Now it is important to trace the other elements in their consecration to office which have deeply affected Christian ordination.

Because the priests of Israel had a

hereditary succession through the various families of the tribe of Levi, Catholic Christianity picked up the idea of spiritual heredity from Jesus to his family of apostles (Matt. 12:46-50). Jesus rejected any idea of natural succession.

Because early Christianity began in the Jewish synagogue setting, the titles of religious office in the Christian community are borrowed directly from the Old Testament language. Especially is this true of the title, elder, which in its Greek form, *Presbyteros* (Presbyter) is the most common term for the leaders of the Christian community. It is rooted in the biblical account of the selection of seventy elders to assist Moses (Ex. 18:13-27; 24:1), but it is expanded in the Pastoral Epistles to include "ruling elders" as well as "preaching and teaching" (I Tim. 5:17).

The fact that religious office in the Old Testament was a lifetime vocation surely influenced early Christianity in its concept of ordination as a "setting apart" for a life-long vocation. The detailed account of distinctive articles of apparel and special qualities of purity for the Levites and priests gave to Judaism and Christianity the idea of "two levels" of religious standards: one for the priests and one for the people. This double standard continues to distort Christian ethical norms and to widen the gap between clergy and laity in a way that contradicts the Christian understanding that all the followers of Jesus are ministers, each with differing functions in the one body of Christ (I Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 4:11-16).

New Testament: Set Apart for a Particular Mission

A crucial passage for understanding the biblical background of ordination is the "setting apart" of Saul and Barnabas for their first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3). Each of the following points in this text has exerted direct influence upon the practice of ordination, especially among people like Baptists who attempt to follow the scriptures as their rule of faith and practice:

1. While a group of "prophets and teachers" was worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit led them to set apart Barnabas and Saul "for the work to which I have called them." That is, the initiative lay with the Holy Spirit, working through the group of praying and fasting believers, in calling them

for this mission. Barnabas and Saul did not stand up and say they were called for this mission; the Holy Spirit led the group to set them apart for the work. Many Baptist churches have called lay members right out of their congregation and ordained them as their pastors, believing that they were led by the Holy Spirit to make that choice. That happened with the great Baptist pastor, Dr. George W. Truett. It also happened with the beloved Southern Baptist leader, Dr. Louie D. Newton, whose Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta called him out of the layman's pew and ordained him to be their pastor. Even in the more typical case where a person feels the divine call to the ministry first, and then, later, approaches his church about licensing and ordination, this passage has led Baptists to believe that the church must also be led by the Holy Spirit to recognize and confirm the divine calling to ministry in that person's life. Otherwise, the congregation would have no basis upon which to act in setting apart that person to the Christian ministry.

2. After a period of fasting and praying, these members of the Antioch church "laid their hands" upon Saul and Barnabas and sent them off on their mission. In this context that ritual of "laying on hands," after fasting and praying, surely had all of the following implications which have influenced ordination practice:

a. These church members were saying, "By this act we are affirming that the Holy Spirit has also led us to designate you for this holy calling." In every Christian ordination since that time, this has been one element in the meaning of the ceremony — the confirmation by the congregation or ordaining council of the evidence of the divine call in the life of the one being set apart for Christian ministry.

b. They were also, by this act, invoking and symbolically bestowing a divine blessing upon these chosen ones. This is the meaning of the sequence "and praying they laid their hands on them." By laying hold of the divine power in earnest prayer which filled their hearts and souls, they could then give a visual sign by which that spiritual power in the group of believers could be invoked upon the two who were going to need the prayer support of the whole church on their dangerous mission.

c. Also, after the analogy of the Old

Testament *Semikhah*, the Christians of Antioch were saying to Saul and Barnabas, "Something of our own personal beings will go with you wherever you go. You are not alone. Our love, our concern, our support and prayers will go with you every step of your journey." I can still feel the hands upon my head and hear the whispered words of encouragement from some of the saints of God in my home church: "Wayne, I'll always be praying for you wherever God leads you!" Or, "Son, a part of me will go with you everywhere you go to preach the gospel." Many of these saints have gone on to be with the Lord, but I can still feel the warm glow of their encouraging words whenever I stand up to preach. This is the biblical warrant for a continuing support and concern for the ordained minister by the ordaining church, throughout his ministry. It is also the basis of counsel, guidance, rebuke, and even recall of the ordination if that drastic action should become necessary.

3. In addition to the divine initiative in calling Saul and Barnabas, and the significance of prayer and the laying on of hands in setting them apart, a third implication from this passage has continued to influence and challenge our ordination practice: these two were called, set apart, and ordained for a particular task, "the work to which I have called them." That is, they were not called to an ecclesiastical office, or status, which made them lifetime members of the clergy. Some see in this an implicit rebuke to the pride and glory of sacred office, which became such a sin among the Levites, the Scribes, and the Sadducees. Their contempt for the "unordained" and unofficial rabbi from the country province of Galilee surely contributed to their rejection of their Messiah. He was not a member of the clergy; he was beneath contempt. This passage certainly supports the concept of a functional ministry, set apart for a particular task, rather than a professional office in the church which one "holds" for a lifetime. At the very least, it warns against drawing too sharp a distinction between official clergy and laity, because the Holy Spirit calls out of the congregation whomever he wills to do the work which he assigns them. If this were the only passage we have on setting apart for ministry, we would have no biblical basis for ordaining anyone to the lifetime office of Christian minister.

Strange Light Leads Cambodian Refugees

KHAM PUT, Thailand (BP) — Khun Poat, a 19-year-old girl, escaped the Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia after an arduous journey with 100 others through miles of jungle, canals, mountains and rivers.

Numerous dangers stood between them and freedom, including Communist soldiers, the elements, and a stretch of jungle ground covered with thorns. Most of the escapees either were barefoot or wore flimsy thongs, no protection against the thorns.

A midnight-like darkness hampered the struggling group as it crossed a valley between two high mountain ranges. "We could see absolutely nothing," Pat later told missionary Maxine Stewart. "We didn't even know where to step."

Suddenly hundreds of fireflies swarmed into view. Their glow made enough light for the people to see the path. The refugees

reached the next mountain by "firefly light."

After delays due to disorientation and weariness — at one point Poat, hallucinating, was sure she saw the ocean — the escapees literally staggered into Thailand. Poat had to be carried to the refugee camp. Two months of medical treatment were necessary before she recovered, said Mrs. Stewart in the April issue of The Commission magazine.

After Poat was transferred to Kham Put refugee camp, she was invited to a Christian meeting. Although she had seen enough bamboo to last the rest of her life, she agreed to attend the meeting in the bamboo-thatch enclosure.

"I know that old man," she exclaimed at a picture on the wall of the chapel. "He is the one who led us and showed us the way to Thailand and freedom."

She was pointing to a picture of Jesus.



Volunteers Tear Down House At Central Hills

Volunteer labor groups are making a vital contribution to the development of Central Hills Baptist Retreat. One of the latest groups to serve was from First Church, Cleveland. Shown are nine men and boys who worked on a recent Saturday helping tear down an old house in preparation for the construction of a barn and pasture for the horses. Pictured are Bob Brewer, Lewis Myers, Milton Burd, Phillip Sanders, Larry Braswell, Carlos Rast, Mike Squires, Tom Howell, and Chris Howell. Other groups desiring to assist in various work projects are asked to contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, or W. Levon Moore in Kosciusko.

Colorful Tent Helps To Boost Attendance

By Dean E. Richardson

TAMALE, Ghana — Everybody in Zugudaboguni turned out to see the brightly colored house where the missionaries slept. So great was the interest that services had to be moved outside the small, mud-block church building to accommodate the crowds.

W. Ralph Davis, Southern Baptist missionary from Mississippi, had come to the village of Zugudaboguni for a three-day revival. The church was the farthest out in the bush of all the Tamale association churches.

Friends of the Davises in the United States at Rich Fork Baptist Church in Thomasville, N. C., donated the tent. It is one of the fancy, colorful models with aluminum tubing frame and nylon screenings.

It was given so that the Davis family could use it for some degree of privacy and safety from poisonous snakes or scorpions when they needed to stay in the bush longer than one day.

The Davises visited every one of the 25 or so compounds in the village, greeting the people and inviting them

to services. Pastor Issifu Alhassan visited with them.

An experimental 7 a. m. devotional service proved successful because the farmers were willing to delay going to their farms until the service finished. And always the people came back for one more look at the tent.

By the end of the revival several had made professions of faith, including the chief himself. The Davises, aided by a teacher and students from the Baptist Training Center in Tamale, are returning to Zugudaboguni each week to teach an inquirers class.

In this case the colorful tent turned out to be more than shelter — it was a way to open the doors to Christian witness.

(Richardson, from Texas, is Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Ghana.)

Carnie Smith Scholarship Is Established At MC



Mrs. Carnie Smith

A man who dedicated his life to serving others through long years of public service will continue to assist future generations, thanks to a memorial scholarship established in his honor at Mississippi College.

The Carnie Smith Memorial Scholarship has been established at Mississippi College by his widow, Mrs. Carnie (Alpha M.) Smith of Route 1, Wesson, to help assist students planning on a church-related vocation.

The endowed scholarship will be given annually to juniors or seniors in need who plan to make a church-related vocation their career. This would include those who plan to enter the ministry or work as ministers of education, youth workers, educational secretaries, music directors or other church-related field positions.

Recipients of the scholarship will be selected by the Financial Aids Committee of the College, with applicants from Lincoln County given first preference. Recommendations will be made to the committee by the chairman of the Division of Religion in consultation with the Religion faculty.

In establishing the scholarship, Mrs. Smith said she wanted it to be a per-

petual memorial to her husband who was a devoted public servant and an active Baptist layman.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had been sweethearts since the third grade and were almost inseparable as a couple.

"We enjoyed each others company and enjoyed doing things together," said Mrs. Smith.

"His love for young people and his devotion to his church was what prompted me to memorialize him in this way. I know this is what he would have wanted."

Mr. Smith, who was a 1932 graduate of Mississippi College, taught in the public schools of Lincoln, Franklin, and Neshoba Counties. Mrs. Smith also taught with him in these schools. He also served a four-year term as sheriff of Lincoln County and served eight years as County Superintendent of Education in Lincoln County.

A long-time supporter of Baptist work and a lover of young people, Smith was active in denominational work and much in demand as a singer and choir director in churches throughout Lincoln County. He led revival meetings in almost every church in the county at one time or another and at the time of his death had sung at 633 funerals.

In fact, just a few hours before his death while studying his Sunday School lesson in his easy chair, he had sung at a funeral of a friend.

Smith was a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Brookhaven for many years and after his retirement to the Mt. Zion community was a deacon and choir director in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church until his death.

An outstanding athlete while attending Mississippi College, Smith lettered in both football and basketball. He was considered by many as one of the finest one-handed basketball shooters of his day.

Seven Mississippi Churches Surpass 500 In Music Enrollment

NASHVILLE — Seven Mississippi churches reported more than 500 in church music enrollment in 1978, led by Broadmoor Church, Jackson, with an enrollment of 790.

Other Mississippi churches over the 500 mark during 1978 are First Baptist Church, Jackson (773); First Baptist Church, Starkville (701); Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson (619); Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton (585); First Baptist Church, Hatties-

burg (512); and Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg (507).

Almost 100 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention reported more than 500 persons actively participating in the church music program in 1978. Music enrollment for the Southern Baptist Convention was over 1.4 million this year, up 3.1 percent from the previous year. This was the 14th consecutive year for the SBC ongoing church music enrollment to increase.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, expressed congratulations to each of the churches surpassing the 500 enrollment total, and said the increases are evident of support, outreach and growth of the SBC music program.

It is no worse to stand on ceremony than to trample on it. — E. P. Day



Seminary Centers Increase

Hollis V. Bryant (at left), consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Cooperative Missions Department, received a report of an increased number of Seminary Extension centers in Mississippi when he visited Nashville recently. Bob Johnson (standing), associate director of the Seminary Extension Department, said that 14 centers already have been reported, compared to a total of 11 at the end of the last reporting year. Bryant was attending the annual workshop for state Seminary Extension representatives. (SED photo)

Muslims Congratulate Baptists On New Center

TUR'AN VILLAGE, Israel — How do Muslim residents in a small Galilee village react when Baptists build a center in their village? How do they respond to an invitation to the dedication service for a new sanctuary in that center?

They respond with congratulations, according to Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith, Southern Baptist press representative. The Muslims of Tur'an Village came to the dedication and brought greetings and congratulations from their local council. Many of them stayed through the service before going to the mosque for evening prayers.

Some of these Muslim visitors remembered that as early as 1956 Baptist teaching and preaching teams were coming from the Baptist church in Nazareth and would meet in homes or under olive trees in nearby fields, Mrs. Smith said.

Other Muslim guests were the parents of toddlers and young children who attend the daily kindergarten directed by the pastor's wife. Some have been host to the pastor, Suhail Ramadan, and his wife Fida during regular visits to homes in the village.

Because there is no Greek Orthodox priest assigned to the village at present, the Baptist pastor has become the Christian religious figure in the eyes of the Muslim as well as the Chris-

tian residents, Mrs. Smith continued.

"Therefore, when the dedication service began they listened with respect to Ramadan and caught his joyous spirit as he welcomed them and over 200 others," Mrs. Smith said. "These Muslims, too, joined in singing the hymns in Arabic and settled back to listen to their council leader, Yunis Nassar, speak in their behalf."

After the benediction these Muslims mingled in the crowd still looking at the new three-story structure and drank the thick, bitter Turkish coffee as a sign of respect and pleasure.

At the close of the service the Muslim friends heard Ramadan say he wants the Baptist center in Tur'an to be a "center of light and truth to all who are seeking."

Gandia, Spain — The churches of the Levante area of Spain met together to show support for the five-year mission plan Spanish Baptists adopted to reach new areas with the gospel message. More than 800 people attended the two-day meeting in Gandia, a very hard place to reach people, according to Indy (Mrs. Charles W.) Whitten. However, 28 professions of faith were made during three months of intense witnessing there, which the Southern Baptist missionary says is "like a thousand in other places."

Brazil:

By John J. Hurt

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Baptist leaders in Brazil have not let flood waters dampen their enthusiasm for a massive program to double membership and churches by their 1982 centennial.

Flood waters are receding, leaving a toll of more than 500 lives and property damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Recovery will be slow as farmers replant crops and factories make repairs before recalling workers.

"But all this will be insignificant in the long run," said Joao Falcao Sobrinho, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

"Christian brotherhood is proven in hours of tragedy," he explained. And he believes the cohesion which developed among churches as they ministered to flood victims will carry over into the centennial crusade.

Jose Bittencourt, executive secretary for the Baptist Convention of Minas Gerais, said, "I really think all

of this is going to help" because "churches are embracing one another" in an emergency and members are finding it "much easier to witness."

Brazilian Baptists are in the first year of a four-year emphasis leading to the centennial. Attention this year is on "Fortifying the Christian Family." Next year it is "Doing the Work of Evangelism" and in 1981 it is "Expanding Mission Outreach." The 1982 centennial emphasis is "Edifying the Church."

Leaster C. Bell, Southern Baptist missionary from Texas serving as associate to the executive secretary for the Brazilian convention, said he "feels real, real good" about reaching the centennial goals.

Brazil, with a population of 115 million, has 2,800 Baptist churches with 450,000 members. The 1982 goal is 6,000 churches and one million members.

Doubling membership and churches seems more realistic when one looks at

the recent growth in the Minas Convention, in a state a little larger than Texas. More than half of the 139 churches have been organized since 1966.

It took 41 years to organize the first 73 churches but only 17 years to organize the next 74. The major problem at present is money to purchase land and start construction. New zoning laws in Minas, for example, require more land and add to construction costs.

Minas Gerais was one of the states hardest hit by floods. Highway damage alone was placed at \$70 million, with probably two-thirds of the 25,000 Baptists affected in one way or another.

The Baptist leadership acknowledged financial problems for their denominational program in the months ahead. Churches that dipped into available funds for aid to flood victims face a decline in contributions because members are out of work.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board made \$285,000 available for relief ministries. Missionaries and pastors administered it through the state conventions and local churches. Bittencourt said "all people in agriculture are going to be without funds" until new crops are harvested. (Hurt, editor emeritus of Texas' Baptist Standard, has been on assignment in Brazil covering effects of recent disastrous floods.)

Prentiss Votes To Modernize Its Sanctuary

The congregation of Prentiss Church has approved a \$250,000 modernization program.

Earl Stamps, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, acting in the capacity of floor leader for the project, steered the program to final approval.

Alterations, relocations and renovations (although not finalized) will include enlarging the choir loft, elevating the baptistry, and erecting a steeple of Gothic style.

David Michel is pastor and Ingram L. Foster, Jr., first vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a member of the congregation.

Revival Dates

Robinson Street, Jackson: May 6-9; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James M. Doyle, the new pastor at the church, evangelist; Don Moore, music evangelist who was formerly minister of music at Robinson Street, singer.

Bethany Baptist Church

By Kirby Tyrone

Bethany Baptist Church, Jefferson Davis County Association, was organized in 1919. It is located in South Prentiss on Highway 13. Some people say the original site was not far away on the banks of Whitesand Creek, a convenient place for baptismal services.

Charter members were Joseph Ford, a black man Friday, William Martin, Joseph Parkman, Charles Slater, William Sparks, William Stamps, Joshua Stockstill, Levi Tidwell, Sister Ford, Nancy Mullens, Susannah Parkman, Sister Slater, Nancy Martin, Charity Simmons, Polly Sparks, Sister Stockstill, Frances Stamps, and

Tempey Tidwell.

"Big Meetings" were held in summer and lasted all day for a week, and that practice continued well into the 1920's and possibly later. People came from long distance and camped or lodged with relatives or other members. Food for the noon meal was prepared and made ready by the women, who did quite a bit of socializing at the same time. After the table was blessed, the men congregated in groups, ate and discussed topics of interest to them. Young people withdrew to a side of the table, but not very far, ate, frolicked, "spooned," and sometimes, over the years, a couple of them would elope.

Sermons were long and at times intermingled with a touch of "hell-fire and brimstone," the consequent result being "new-born" Christians and the addition of some others. The new converts, it is said, had had an "experience" with the Lord.

Discipline in the early period was harsh and rigid, and when some wayward member failed or refused to admit his sins, he was usually "excommunicated."

The first pastor was Joseph P. Martin; the one who served the longest period was Norvell Robertson, who began his ministry in 1838 and departed in 1878. The present pastor is Marty Evans.

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Hardness Of Heart

By J. Roy McComb
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Mark 6:1-7:23

As Jesus ministered to people He encountered hardness of heart.

I. Unbelief In Nazareth (6:1-6)

If chapter 5 can be called "the faith chapter" then chapter 6 deserves the title "the no-faith chapter." Jesus now turned from Capernaum to Nazareth. In Nazareth, the place where He grew up, He encountered unbelief. When He left Capernaum to go to Nazareth, the bright spot was that His disciples followed Him. What are disciples for if not to follow the Master?

He went into the synagogue and began to teach the people. The teaching of Jesus disturbed the listeners. It is to their credit that they were listening, which is more than can be said for some today. It can be said that they disbelieved and this led to unbelief. Their amazement at His teachings led to their being offended at what He had to say. They had trouble believing that a hometown boy could be such a prophet.

II. Mission of the Twelve (6:7-13)

The unbelief that Jesus encountered in Nazareth did not discourage Him. He began to send out the twelve two by two. Why two by two? First, to help and encourage each other. Second, to be valid witnesses. Third, to help protect each other. We see the plan of Jesus to evangelize the world in its inception here.

He told them to take nothing except a staff. They were to take no bread, no bag, and no money. They were to wear sandals but not take an extra tunic. They were to go by faith. They were to depend upon the promises of God and the word of Jesus. In those days evangelism was a passion rather than a profession. The servants of the Lord should go forth with authority. The equipment should be neither extravagant nor inadequate.

Jesus' popularity was now at its height. His name was on the lips of all. They were saying, "Who is this man?" Popularity is perhaps the most severe test of anyone. Success has spoiled more people perhaps than failure. It takes a steady hand to carry a full cup. The questions concerning the person of Jesus are still being asked. The tragedy is that so many try to explain Him away. They will have anyone or anything except his own explanation of himself.

1. Herod's Party is Recounted for Us

This party led to the death of John the Baptist. It is a gruesome story of a weak spineless, lustful person. Herod's shameful and incestuous union with Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, led to the thundering of John the Baptist against this unlawful and ungodly union. With a thundering voice and flashing eyes and scorching words John the Baptist faced the king with his sin. Herod was guilty and knew it.

2. Occasions Make or Mar Many Men

The occasion of Herod's birthday marred him. In his birthday party, in a drunken state, after his wife's daughter dances lustfully in his presence, he promises her anything she wants to ask. She asks for the head of John the Baptist.

The king did not want to do this but he would keep his word even if it meant doing wrong. Herod, like many, thought he could regulate his sin to suit his convenience. Sin will not be the servant of any but will become the sovereign of all. Many potentates have been pigmies but Christian martyrs are true monarchs.

IV. Feeding the Five Thousand

Verse 30 connects directly with verses 12 and 13.

Jesus had sent the disciples out to preach, to drive out demons, to anoint the sick, and to heal. Their mission seems to have been accomplished. In reply to their report Jesus proposed a retreat. The crowd was present. People were milling about, coming and going. The disciples and Jesus

were unable to eat a meal. Jesus was aware of the weary disciples' need to rest. All of us need some recreation and rest.

Jesus attempted to take his disciples to a solitary place. They were observed leaving and many ran ahead of them. Jesus saw the crowd as sheep without a shepherd so He stopped to teach them. By the time He had finished it was late in the day. The people were hungry. The disciples had a committee meeting and made the motion that they send them away. Jesus amended their motion by saying, "Give ye them to eat" and the amendment was carried not by a show of hands but by a demonstration of power.

The disciples knew full well they did not have the resources necessary to feed this large crowd. They said to Him, "It would take eight months of a man's wages to feed this group."

"What do you have?" He asked. They discovered they had five loaves and two fish. This was all. Certainly not enough.

Then Jesus directed them to have the people sit down on the grass. The people sat down and a miracle occurred. Jesus took what they had, five loaves and two fish, He blessed it, He broke it, and the disciples distributed it.

Jesus always uses what we have to the maximum. The disciples picked up 12 baskets of broken pieces of bread and fish.

V. Walking On The Water (6:45-56)

Jesus had instructed His disciples to cross to the other side. He then sent the people away. Then He went away Himself into the mountain to pray. When evening had come the ship was in the midst of the sea but Jesus was alone on the land.

It is interesting to note that He had observed the ship in the midst in the evening. He saw them toiling trying to row the boat against a contrary wind. Yet, it was the fourth watch, between three and six a.m., before He came to them, walking on the sea.

He was about to go past the disciples when they noticed His presence. His presence frightened them greatly because they did not recognize Him. They cried out in terror. It was then that He revealed Himself to them. Our Lord did not want His disciples to be frightened and terrified. Neither does He want His disciples today to be frightened and terrified. He identifies Himself. He goes to the boat. The sea is calm and they are amazed.

Christ and calmness go together. Christ is always nearer than any of us suspect.

VI. Controversy About Tradition

1. Trifling With Truth

The Pharisees and the Scribes came to Jesus. Apparently they came all the way from Jerusalem to Capernaum. Popularity of Jesus had aroused suspicion and the jealousy of the religious leaders. We have never done it this way before so why should you, is their attitude. They insist that Jesus should follow some of the petty traditions.

2. Teaching The Truth

The Scribes and Pharisees were concerned with appearances. Jesus is concerned with reality. Scribes and Pharisees were concerned with tradition. Jesus is concerned with truth. He turned away from the Scribes and Pharisees to the crowd. He taught them that what is outside a man is not what defiles him but what is inside.

That which matters is not our cups but our characters. It is not our table but our temper. Morals matter more than manners.

I close with these truths from this lesson:

1. Lack of faith deprives us of divine blessings
2. Hardness of heart leads to spiritual suicide
3. Human traditions blind people to spiritual realities
4. Human need should have priority over religious rules

Deaf Women Meet During WMU Week At Glorieta

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The first conference for deaf WMU members will be held this summer at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center during the joint Woman's Missionary Union/Brotherhood week, June 30-July 6.

The conference is planned for deaf women, but will also be helpful to church staff members and others who work with the deaf. Topics of instruction will include the basics of missions, how to organize WMU age-level groups, and various teaching methods.

Coordinator of the conference is

Doris Diaz, director of the Language Department for Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Diaz, who is a beginner in learning sign language, will be aided by conference leaders and three interpreters.

Registration for the deaf conference is open to anyone deaf or working with the deaf. Those interested in attending the conference should contact Glorieta Baptist Conference Center to make reservations for the WMU/Brotherhood Conference. There is no separate registration for the deaf conference.

Staff Changes

Thomas Balch, Laurel, has accepted a call as Bethlehem Church's minister of music. In 1953 Balch was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church, North Bend, Oregon, where he served for 12½ years in pioneer mission work. He is a graduate of William Carey College and attended Southern Oregon College, and New Orleans Seminary. His pastoral work has been in Oregon, California, Michigan, and Mississippi. In the music field, he has served as music evangelist in Mississippi and Oregon. His parents are R. C. Balch, Sr., and late Mrs. Mae G. Balch. His wife is the former Barbara Reid. He and his wife have two daughters, Cheryl and Patricia.

Ed Deuschle is now pastor of Trinity Church in Fulton, having moved from Morgan Chapel Church in Oktibbeha Association, where he had served since 1975. For the last 2½ years he was associational moderator and a member of the Golden Triangle Joint Missions Committee.

Deuschle



Gary G. Berry became pastor of Crossgates Church of Brandon effective May 1, moving from Taylorsville



where he was pastor of First Church since 1975. A native of Magee he was ordained by Mt. Zion Church, Mt. Olive. He graduated from William Carey College and earned Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He is a Seminary Extension Executive Board member and teacher, and a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Berry's wife is the former Janet Wilson of Charlotte, N. C. The Berrys have two children, Gina and Jody. They will live at 52 Freehill Court in Brandon.

The Deer Creek Baptist Church of Rolling Fork has called Don Franklin as minister of music and youth. He is a student at Mississippi College from Oxford. Larry Barlow is pastor.



First, Senatobia has called Rex Bustin as minister of education and recreation. He is pictured with his wife, Debbie. John Flowers is the pastor.

James M. Doyle is the new pastor of Robinson Street Church, Jackson, having moved there from Clarksville, Ind. He began his ministry in Jackson on March 18. He previously held pastorates in Nashville, Tenn.

Retired Minister Dies At Age 83

Services were held April 25 at Old Hebron Church for Solon L. Walker, 83, who died April 24 at Jefferson Davis County Hospital.

Interment was in New Hebron Cemetery. R. G. Bilbo and David Michel officiated.

A native of the Old Hebron Community, Walker was a graduate of Mississippi College, class of 1921, and attended Southwestern Seminary. During his 50 years in the ministry, he was pastor at Dublin Church in Jeff Davis County; at Trion Church in Georgia; Woodlawn Church in Vicksburg; Phalt, Whitesand, Antioch, Bethany, Hathorn, (all in Jeff Davis); Wanilla and Crooked Creek in Lawrence County; and at Old Hebron where he retired in 1960. He was moderator of Jeff Davis Association on several occasions.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Gage Walker (they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary July 28, 1976); two sons, S. L. Walker, Jr. of Meridian, and Dr. Milton Walker of Columbia; a daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Waters of St. Petersburg, Fla.; ten grandchildren; and a brother, Durr Walker of Brookhaven.

Plans are being made to establish a memorial scholarship fund for a ministerial student at Mississippi College. All three of Walker's children are graduates of Mississippi College. For information about this, persons may contact Howard Woods at Box 251, Clinton, Ms. 39056 or by telephone 924-5563 or 924-5527.

Devotional contact makes a worshiping throng as different from the same number praying apart as a bed of coals is from a trail of scattered cinders. — Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Blue Mountain Will Offer Workshop For Organists

As part of its program of continuing education, Blue Mountain College will offer a workshop for church organists on May 25 and again on May 26.

The May 25 session will be held at the Springdale Church in Ripley, and the Saturday session will be at the West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo.

The purpose of the workshop is to review and discuss easy music appropriate for church use and playable by part-time organists. Fifty pieces

selected from all seasons and for general use will be demonstrated on two different electronic instruments.

The workshop will be presented by Edward Ludlow, associate professor of organ and church music, and the sessions are open to anyone. The cost is \$10. Additional information may be obtained from the Office of the Dean, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS 38610.

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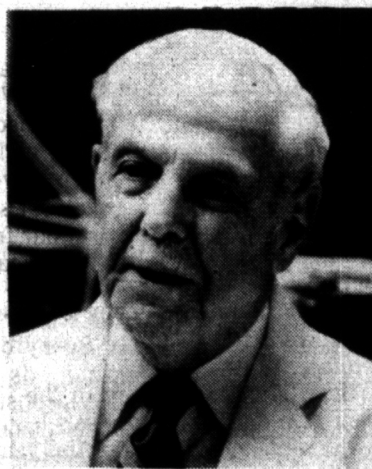
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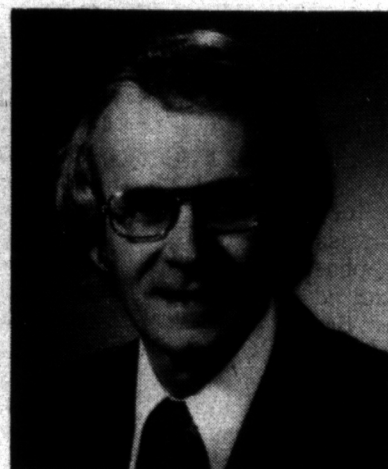
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ALTON OCHSNER, M.D., the 83 year old founder of Ochsner Hospital, New Orleans, LA, is one of the Conference leaders. He will discuss, "How To Live Longer & Enjoy It."



DR. JOHN WARREN STEEN, Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, is to be a keynote speaker and lead the seminar, "How To Develop An Exciting Program With, By, And For Senior Adults In Your Church."

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Staff includes these Baptists: Dr. James Travis, Dr. Ralph Atkinson, and Carl McIntire.

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BROADMAN

Names In The News

Mrs. Gay V. Cochran, mother of Mrs. Raymond L. Kolb, missionary in Brazil, died March 22 in Dublin, Ga. Mrs. Kolb, wife of the Foreign Mission Board's field representative to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa 07-1185, 70000 Brasilia, Federal District, Brazil. She is the former Martha Ann Cochran of Dublin, Ga. He is a native of Blue Spring, Miss.

Sam Fort of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore., has been elected president of the State Baptist Student Directors Association. Other officers are Don Blaylock of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky., president-elect; and William Bonner of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, secretary. The organization is made up of state directors of student work in each of the 34 state Baptist conventions and three fellowships which cover Southern Baptist work in all 50 states.

J. B. Costlow, Clarke College director of religious activities, has released the names of seven Clarke students who have been chosen by the Home Mission Board, SBC, to serve as student summer missionaries for ten weeks. Four students will be going to California. They are Dorothy Beaver, Forest; Chris Myers, Daleville; Paul Stupka, Benton; and Willie Watts, Houma, La. Joe Styron of Braxton will serve in Oklahoma and Amy Pitts of Terry will be assigned to New Mexico. Traveling to Missouri will be Burton Schmitz of Carrollton.

Presidents of three Southern Baptist seminaries have been named the 1979 Distinguished Alumni of Southwestern Seminary. Russell H. Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Seminary; and William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Seminary were announced as recipients of the seminary's highest honor by National Alumni Association President Frank Pollard of Jackson. A fourth seminary president, Milton U. Ferguson of Midwestern Seminary, was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1975.

Jerry and Bobby Rankin, missionaries to Indonesia, are currently on a temporary assignment in India (address: 383 Upper Palace Orchard, Bangalore 560 006, India). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Tupelo and grew up in Clinton. The former Bobby Simmons, she was born in Mobile, Ala.

Mrs. Lula M. Nickey, mother of Mrs. Tom D. Sumrall, missionary associate to Brazil, died March 13. Mrs. Sumrall may be addressed at Caixa 408, 30000 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. She is the former Jane Nickey of McComb, Miss.



Floyd Higginbotham (right), Batesville, recently attended a seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, on Starting a New Pastorate Effectively. Bruce Grubbs (left), pastoral ministries consultant in the board's church administration department, led the seminar, which was a study of factors that are important in effectively beginning a new pastorate.



R. L. (Bob) Maddox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Ga., has been named a speechwriter to President Jimmy Carter, effective May 15. During the past year, Maddox, pastor of the Georgia church for more than seven years, has written two speeches for the president and one for Mrs. Carter. Maddox said he first wrote for Carter the speech delivered by the president to a meeting last June in Atlanta sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Most recently, Maddox wrote a draft for Carter's speech at the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty March 26 and for an address delivered by Mrs. Carter the same day via telephone hookup to the Christian Life Commission's family seminar in Orlando, Fla. The Calhoun congregation includes the president's son Jack and his wife Judy. The Georgia pastor has written lessons for three adult Sunday School quarterlies of the Baptist Sunday School Board and is the author of a commentary on Acts.

Baptist Young Women of District 3 gathered at First Church, Clara for a fellowship lunch, and to hear missionary, Georgia Mae Ogburn, retired, from Chile. Miss Ogburn showed slides and souvenirs of her recent visit to Santiago, Chile.

Arvil Dunaway is entering fulltime evangelism. A graduate of William Carey College, he served Eastside Church, Richton, while a student. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., and attended Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He now lives at 4705 Baywood Drive, Lynn Haven, Florida 32444 (telephone 904-265-3371).

One of Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Chile, Catherine Johnson (Mrs. James W.) McGavock, died April 16 in a Dallas nursing home. She was 88.

Cynthia L. McGee, missionary to Chile, may be addressed at Casilla 16624, Correo 9, Santiago, Chile. She was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Jackson, Miss.

Dedication May 27

Auditorium, Family Life Center Double Size Of McLaurin Heights

McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, will have homecoming and dedication services Sunday, May 27. Regular services will be held Sunday morning with Churchwide luncheon at noon, with open house until 2 p.m. The dedication will be at 2 p.m. in the auditorium. The new auditorium, office suite, and Family Life Center nearly doubles the space of previous buildings. The auditorium is square with seating in a semi-circle; architecture is modern. The Family Life Center has full size gym, arts and crafts, canteen, and game room.

Along with this, the previous auditorium has been remodeled into a fellowship hall with fully equipped kitchen. The old fellowship hall and kitchen have been remodeled into classrooms. Curtis L. Williams is pastor.

Groups — Reserve now for The Great Passion Play presented thru Oct. 27. Tickets, lodging, meals, & recreation just \$10 ea. (campers), or \$14 (in Dorms) at KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT Rt. 1 — Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632 Reservations: 501/253-8418

Three Beirut Churches Hold Baptismal Service

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Believers of three nationalities were baptized in a joint baptismal service held by three Baptist churches of Lebanon. About 200 people witnessed the bilingual service in the Ras Beirut Baptist Church in West Beirut. Southern Baptist missionary James P. Craigmyre from Indiana, pastor of the English-language University Baptist Church, baptized an African who sought Christian fellowship after reading a book about a Muslim's conversion to Christianity. A former Muslim, he had been given the book by a bookstore manager in Beirut. A young man and secretary was baptized into the Mousouriyeh Baptist Church by David W. King, Southern Baptist missionary and pastor of that church. The Ras Beirut church, which has been no pastor for several years, presented four candidates, a teenage girl, a young man, and a Lebanese tailor and his Polish wife.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW FROM Baptist Children's Village

Mother's Day Appeal

CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK, May 6-13 in 1979 and MOTHER'S DAY, May 13, 1979 represent critically important dates to the hundreds of boys and girls who will depend upon The Children's Village this year for shelter, support, training, counseling, motivation and direction. CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK, with its traditional emphasis upon the strengths of the Christian home, is the period of time, allocated to The Baptist Children's Village by Mississippi Baptist Convention for emphasis in the structured and organized cooperating churches upon our Baptist child care ministry, and MOTHER'S DAY is the Convention-suggested time for an offering by those churches, designated to and for the basic and minimum operating needs of The Children's Village.

MOTHER'S DAY represents the only time during the year when The Children's Village may initiate and conduct an appeal to cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches for designated, budget needs in cash. While we are fortunate and blessed to be included, as a member of the Convention "family," in allocations from Cooperative Program funds, it should be noted again that the generous allocation of Cooperative funds to The Village rarely amounts to more than 20% of our minimum, operating needs, and that a study of our financial records for calendar year 1978 revealed that our Cooperative Program allocation supplied only 18.3% of all funds received in that year. Thus, The Children's Village remains dependent upon designated giving, primarily from organized churches, for its very existence. Since this is the only time during the year when we may openly appeal to churches, as structured

groups, for designated, cash, church support, CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK and the Mother's Day offering is understandably important to us.

We are conscious of the fact that the burden placed upon private homes and local churches by inflation is real, and that many thousands of our Village friends have recently sustained substantial and tragic material losses through natural disasters. Nevertheless, we must be faithful to our sacred mission trust and remind our friends among Mississippi Baptist churches that very real storms of life beset families of children who are our traditional responsibility every day of every year, and in hundreds of instances each year. The Baptist Children's Village represents the only resource and the only hope for social, emotional and spiritual survival, and sometimes, material survival for these boys and girls, who must depend upon all of us.

In recent years, the majority of children who become our responsibility are much older and much more troubled when they come to us for care. The basic costs of extending our ministry to these children have thus been increased, not only by inflation but by the ages and sizes of these children, and the distressing and puzzling problems inflicted upon their lives, so frequently requiring expensive, professional assistance.

In recent years, we have expanded our facilities and substantially diversified our service in order that we may extend care to more children under safer, more intelligent and more Christian standards. The very process of merely "doing our job" by these expansions has served to increase our costs of operation. Food, clothing,

"Children—Our Special Trust"

On Monday, April 23, despite tragic flooding in Mississippi, especially in the Jackson area, despite torrential weekend rains and a week of Baptist revivals, an encouraging group of invited Mississippi Baptist leaders joined The Village children and staff in Powell Chapel on our Jackson Campus for a day of focus upon Christian child care, Mississippi Baptist Convention style.

Planned and arranged by Annette Hitt, our Christian Education Director, using the theme, "Children—Our Special Trust," associational directors of missions, Convention Board department directors, Convention officers, Village trustees and other Mississippi Baptist ministers and laymen, joined in our first, annual observation of a special day of emphasis upon the accomplishments and opportunities of our mission ministry.

The program commenced in Powell Chapel at 9:30 a.m. and concluded with a luncheon, served by the Jackson houseparent staff in Hester Activities Building at 1:00 o'clock P.M.

Although rains, floods and other difficulties interfered with the plans of many of our friends to attend, our guests were enthusiastic in reacting to what they saw and heard, and we believe them to have clearer and more accurate information about the nature of our mission assignment and the details of our ministry of child care.

Featured speakers included Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Rev. William F. Evans, President of the Board of Trustees of The Baptist Children's Village and pastor of New Albany's First Baptist Church, and Dr. John Claypool,

pastor of Jackson's Northminster Baptist Church.

The program featured a panel presentation by Village department heads representing the ministries of social service, activities, music, and Christian Education, and the supervision of home and campus life on the Jackson campus and on the Farrow Manor campus. Detailed information regarding our total ministry to the neglected and dependent child and his distressed family was shared by these department directors, who presented an almost complete picture, in summary form of our total child care program.

One of the high hours of the day developed to be presentations by seven different individuals, including a high school boy and a high school girl presently living at The Village, and five adults, each of whom is a former Village resident. The meeting was touched and moved by the statements of these seven individuals, representing an aggregate of 66½ years of living at The Children's Village, as each of them gave his Christian testimony and told what life at The Village presently means in terms of motivation and direction in purposeful living. "The Villagers," a popular choral ensemble from our Department of Music, inspired the meeting with a mini-concert.

According to Christian Education Director Hitt, the potential of this new observation was realized despite weather conditions which decimated attendance by our friends, because of the obvious inspiration and excitement experienced by those who did attend. We believe the occasion, which will be attempted again in 1980, affords our best opportunity to provide Mississippi Baptists with an in-depth report on our stewardship, as well as an opportunity for our staff to consider reactions and suggestions of Mississippi Baptist leadership from other assigned areas.

Our Staff

Mrs. Naomi Evans
Housemother
Farrow Manor
since 2/14/77

Miss Barbara Jarrell
Housemother
Jackson Campus
since 10/31/76

"The Teen Choir" Annual Choir Tour Plans

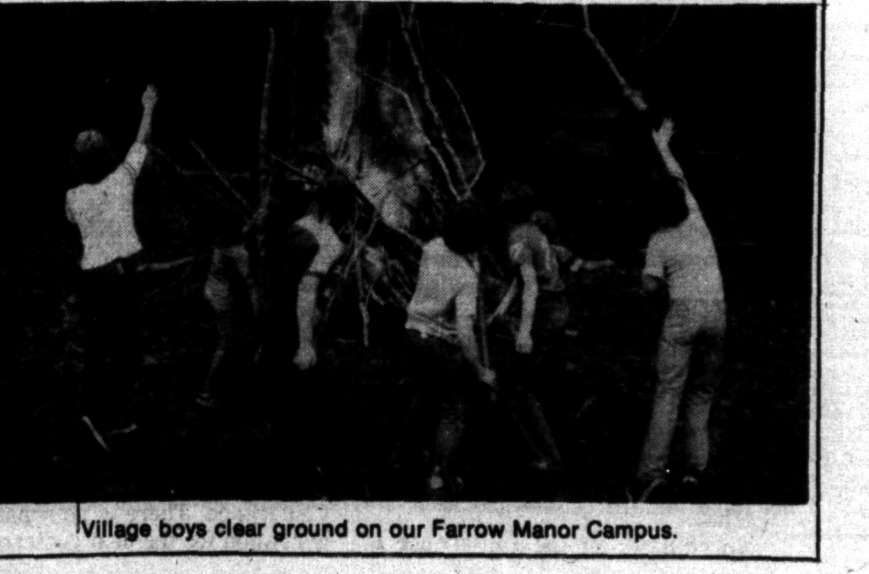
Beginning with the "Home Concert" to be presented in Powell Chapel on the Jackson campus of The Village at 7:30 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, May 24, "The Teen Choir" from our Department of Music will conduct its annual spring tour. Repeating a custom which was begun in 1966, "The Teen Choir," one of the several choral groups represented in our unusual Department of Music, will visit a number of Baptist churches in Mississippi, conducting worship services in those churches through choral music, as a means of expressing the gratitude of The Village to our church friends, in order to afford the young people in the choir opportunity to give their Christian testimony in song and assume some role of leadership in a worship service, while providing our Department of Music with another dimension and re-

source as it continues to develop a sense of self-worth in Village young people through a ministry of therapeutic music. "The Teen Choir," featuring "The Villagers," presently includes about 40 Village boys and girls of high school age, led by Ruth Glaze, director of our Department of Music, assisted by Sharon Stone, her associate. This year, the choir will present six different concerts, enjoying several days of relaxation and fun at lakes and parks enroute, and return to the Jackson campus on Wednesday, May 30.

Churches included in the 1979 tour are: Mt. Moriah, Lincoln County; First Baptist Church, Macon; First Baptist Church, Water Valley; Taylor Baptist Church, Lafayette County; and First Baptist Church, Crowder.



Village young people assist Mrs. Jo Ann Neal in our Farrow Manor Campus Supply Room.



Village boys clear ground on our Farrow Manor Campus.



Thanks for new Easter outfits.

Just For The Record



Crowder Church dedicated a new parsonage on April 29. Open house followed the dedication service. Special music was presented by the Ben C. Scarboroughs. The invocation was given by Olyn Roberts, moderator of Quilman Association. Hugh Z. Scarborough, father of the pastor at Crowder, Truman Scarborough, brought the dedicatory address. Homecoming was held and lunch served.



Charles McKnight, head chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, held a training session recently for deacons and yoke men of Friendship Church, Grenada. Subject matter for discussion included hospital visitation and ministering to the terminally ill. Friendship deacons have adopted the Yoke Fellows program, designed to aid the deacons in their family ministry. Each deacon has a yoke man to work with him. STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: Sammy McCracken, Silas Hill, Ronnie Smith, Bill Wright, Charlie Tribble. SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT: Woodrow Tribble, Donny Hodges, Serman Barnette, pastor, Charles McKnight, Bobby White, Noel Orrell, Donald Palmer.

Poplar Springs Church of Mendonhall, will observe Homecoming on May 6. Victor Johnson, former pastor, will speak at 11 a.m. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by singing and a devotion by the pastor, Billy J. McDaniel, at 11:30 a.m. Dinner will be served at the church 12 noon - 1. The afternoon service will consist of gospel singing from 1 to 3.

The homecoming at Cary Church is scheduled for Sunday, May 6. Guest singers will be the Gospelairs and the Pearl Quartet. Other local singers and talent will be on the program. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by singing and a devotion by the pastor, Billy J. McDaniel, at 11:30 a.m. Dinner will be served at the church 12 noon - 1. The afternoon service will consist of gospel singing from 1 to 3.

Liberty Church, Flowood, held homecoming day on Sunday, April 29. Barney Walker of Jackson preached at 11 a.m. and W. C. Smith, a former pastor of the church, preached at 1:30 p.m. Dinner was served on the grounds. Wayne Crenshaw is pastor and Larry Richardson is music director.



GAS OF SECOND CHURCH, INDIANOLA visited Care Inn on April 14, and carried plastic eggs filled with candy as gifts to the patients. They also presented cup cakes. Girls who participated were, left to right: Sheila Thompson, Mary Anne Cooper, Mary Elizabeth Robertson, Candy Boyles, Leslie Baker, Cindy Steelman, and Carla Thompson. Also the GAS of Second Church saved their change for the Annie Armstrong Offerings. On March 4, at worship service, they presented to the pastor, Doyle Cummings, their offering for \$40. This gift was the first one received at the church for the Annie Armstrong Offering, at the beginning of the Week of Prayer. Girls taking part in this were Candy Boyles, Patti Bennett, Mary Anne Cooper, Mary Elizabeth Robertson, Leslie Baker, Beth Williamson, Cindy Steelman, and Nancy Oliver. Mrs. R. W. Farish is their leader.



Uniform Lesson

Gifts That Build The Church

By Larry Kennedy, First, Laurel
I Cor. 14:1-5, 26-33

The letter was as follows:
Dear Mom and Dad:
I am sorry to be so long in writing to you, but all my writing paper was destroyed when the dormitory was burned down by the demonstrators. I am out of the hospital and the doctors say with a little luck I should regain my normal eyesight. The wonderful boy, Joe, who rescued me from the fire allowed me to live in his small apartment. He comes from a good family, and we are going to be married next week. I know that you always wanted to be grandparents, and the blessed event will take place next month.
Please disregard the above practice in English composition. There was no fire; I haven't been in the hospital; I am not pregnant; and I did not have a boy friend. However, I did get a "D" in French and an "F" in chemistry. And I wanted to be sure you received this news in proper perspective.

Love,
Mary

The theme of "tongues" is a subject that is difficult to keep in proper perspective. This was true for the Corinthian Church as recorded in 1 Corinthians 14, and it is true for us today. At one extreme, certain groups contend that speaking in tongues is the genuine proof that you have received the Holy Spirit. These folks see "tongues" as the sign of God's power in a life.

He asked to see me in private. As we talked, he told me that he had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and was speaking in "tongues." As our conversation came to a close, he asked if he could pray for me in "tongues." Since I had never heard anyone pray or speak in tongues, I told him to feel free to do so.

I was expecting a highly emotional experience, but to my surprise he was quite subdued and his "unintelligible utterances" reminded me of an Indian dialect that I had heard many times in western movies. I thought, "This must be the way John Wayne felt when he was talking to Geronimo." When he had finished speaking in tongues, he did not offer an interpretation. Since I did not have the gift of interpretation, I

could only conclude that he had been "speaking into the air" (1 Cor. 14:9). The experience seemed to please him, and I assumed that he had been personally "edified" (1 Cor. 14:4).

My next experience with "tongues" was quite different. Within a large group, I heard hundreds of people speaking in "tongues" at the same time (This surprised me because Paul condemned such a practice in 1 Cor. 14:27-28). The "unintelligible utterances" of that experience were so frightening, I could feel the hair on the back of my neck rising. It was the kind of sound you would expect to hear if you were meeting Count Dracula in the graveyard at midnight.

A young friend of mine was invited to attend a "tongues" fellowship. He was told that if he wanted to speak in "tongues" he simply needed to repeat certain vowel sounds with rapidity. He was led to believe that if he did this with intensity the Holy Spirit would take over his voice and his "utterances" would become "tongues." Other leading charismatics have recommended a similar procedure; however, it seems to me that such an idea is nothing more than self-hypnosis. If the above suggestions were true, we could all speak in "tongues" with sufficient practice.

A well known advocate of "tongues" has said that "tongues" is a secret prayer language which the devil does not understand. According to this view, the devil cannot hinder your prayers because he does not know what you are praying. The idea is very intriguing; however, there is not an ounce of Bible evidence to support such a view.

It should be observed that in 1 Corinthians Paul is trying to curb the abuse of "tongues." He lists "tongues" as the least important of the gifts (1 Cor. 12:9; 18). The wise apostle makes it clear that "tongues" is not for everyone (1 Cor. 12:7-10). Unlike the "tongues" in Acts 2 which led to the conversion of three thousand people, the "tongues" at Corinth appears to have been a private prayer "language" (1 Cor. 14:14) which was not to be manifested before unbelievers because it would cause them to reject the gospel (1 Cor. 14:23). Paul stressed that prophecy (speaking for God in a known language) is more profitable and should be the primary

concern of the church (1 Cor. 14:34). Although Paul claimed to have spoken in "tongues" (1 Cor. 14:18) (was his "tongues" experience similar to that of the Apostles as recorded in Acts 2 which promoted evangelism, or was he referring to a private prayer language like that in Corinth?), he said he would rather speak five words in a known language than 5000 words in "tongues" (1 Cor. 14:19).

The contemporary "tongues" experience is as divisive today as it was years ago at Corinth. A few churches seem to have been blessed by it; most have been cursed. If you are a Baptist and feel the need to speak in "tongues," you need to do one of two things: either find another church which stresses "tongues" as "the gift" and identify with it; or, go into your prayer closet and practice "tongues" as a personal thing between you and God. Don't try to make everyone over like yourself as the "tongues" folks at Corinth attempted to do.

Handel's "Messiah" Is Presented Twice In Moscow

MOSCOW (RNS) — Handel's majestic "Messiah," with its ringing affirmation of Christian faith and hope, was presented at the Conservatory, Moscow's most important concert hall, on two consecutive nights.

The performance (April 13 and 14) was thought to be the first such in the Soviet Union since the Communists took over in 1917.

The program notes tried to underplay the religious significance of the work, presented as it was as the Russian Orthodox prepared to celebrate Easter on April 22.

"The Messiah," said the text, "is a hymn to the people, not to the Lord. In fact, the people themselves become their own messiah."

Great sermons lead the people to praise the preacher. Good preaching leads the people to praise the Savior. — Charles G. Finney

Devotional

From My Heart To Your Heart:

Opportunity To Share—With Family

By Bill Rittenhouse, Pastor, First, Tupelo

While pastoring in Georgia I was on my way to an evangelistic conference in Texas. The plane landed in New Orleans and since there would be a 30-minute wait, I decided to go to the terminal for a cup of coffee.

The first sip of Louisiana coffee is startling! When I tasted the coffee, I placed the cup back on the counter and went back to reboard the plane. (Excuse me, dark roast coffee lovers!)

As I approached the plane, I saw a gray-haired woman wearing a large corset. Her arms loaded with packages, she was attempting to climb the steps. I quickly made my way to her side and assisted her. She asked if she could ride with me, and I consented.

"Who are you, and where are you from?" asked the gray-haired lady. "I'm a pastor in Atlanta, Georgia," I replied.

"A pastor!" she exclaimed. "Then you will appreciate my purpose for making this flight. I really don't like to fly because airplanes frighten me but I had to make this trip in spite of my age. I have to visit this family before God calls me home." She was 83 years old.

"You see," she explained, "many years ago I had a most unusual and profound experience in my life. I was a Sunday School teacher for a class of girls. In the very beginning I told them that I not only wanted to be their teacher, but if there was any other way I could be of service, I wanted them to let me know.

"Time went by, and one day as I busied myself with household chores, I heard a knock on the door. My hands

were in the dishwasher and my day had already had many interruptions, so I tried to ignore the knock. Again it came. This time it was a little louder and much more persistent.

"I'll just answer it quickly and let whoever it is know how busy I am," I thought to myself.

"I opened the door and saw a little girl standing there. Her hair was uncombed, her dress was dirty and torn and she had no shoes on her feet.

"What is it?" I asked rather peevishly. She just stood there and looked at me with big brown eyes. I realized I had spoken rather sharply to her, and by this time I recognized her as one of the girls who had occasionally attended my class. I softened my tone, "Honey, I'm very busy, but is there something I can do for you?"

"Mrs. Lern, I know you love me," she said in a very soft voice. "My mother died an hour ago and I've come over to let you cry with me."

The gray-haired woman was almost weeping as she recalled the scene. "You know what I did?" she continued, "I took that little girl into my arms and into my home. I combed her hair and washed her face, and I sat down and cried with her. Now she has a family of her own and I'm looking forward to my visit with her."

How easy it is to make statements of concern and then become so busy that we miss our opportunities!

THIS IS THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES THAT I LIKE:

"I was hungry and you fed me..." (Matthew 25:35).

"Inasmuch as you have done it..." (Matthew 25:40).

TO LIFE WE CAN SAY:

"Lord, don't ever let me get so busy that I ignore a knock on the door. It may be an opportunity."

Senior Adults Reactivate The Library At First, Picayune

More than a hundred senior adults participated in one or more events during observance of Senior Adult Week at First Church, Picayune, April 1-8, according to Mrs. J. D. Stoudenmire who submitted the report for the church.

Senior adults a year ago undertook

Building Fund Day at Wayside Church, Scobey, was April 29. William P. Smith, III, a former pastor at Wayside, was guest speaker at the morning service. Dinner was served on the grounds and an afternoon song service was held. Wayside's history was read.

The theme for the day was "Move Forward in Faith." All offerings were to go to the building fund for a new parsonage. Darrell Briscoe is the interim pastor.

the task of reactivating the church library which had been discontinued several years previously. The dedication of the Media Center on April 8 marked the successful conclusion of this year-long project of the senior adult group.

Other activities of the week included a special program at the public library on Consumer Education, conducted by the local AARP Chapter; the regular Keenager luncheon; a trip to ZeMun-

ray Gardens in Louisiana and the Strawberry Festival at Bogalusa.

As a surprise feature of the regular Wednesday evening activities, the church hostess served a meal planned especially for senior adults. The church staff had arranged for posters recognizing the honorees and appropriate remarks were made by pastor William T. Pruitt.

Red Banks Will Erect Original Bell

Red Banks Church at Red Banks will celebrate Memorial Day services May 6. David Turner, associate pastor of First Church, Holly Springs, and former interim pastor at Red Banks, will speak at 11 a.m. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

Afternoon activities will include

erection of the church's original bell at 1:30 p.m. and the showing of the film, "The Burning Hell."

Music is the universal language, which appeals to the universal heart of mankind. — George P. Upton

Life and Work Lesson

Daring To Speak The Truth

By Joe McKeever,
First, Columbus
I Kings 22

Remember the bad joke about the angel who brought good news and bad news? "The good news is you're going to heaven and you will play on the most beautiful golf course in the universe. The bad news is you're going tonight."

That's how it was with King Ahab, the weak-evil ruler of Israel. When he repented of his sin, God promised that the kingdom would not leave his lineage until his death. And now, in the very next chapter, God plots his death!

Actually I Kings 22 has to be ranked as one of the funniest chapters in the Bible. You can almost hear the laugh track as its "stars" utter their lines. Even the prophet gets into the act.

Act I (I Kings 22:1-12)

The scene opens with King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat plotting to defeat the pesky Syrians. Everything seems in order, except Jehoshaphat wants God's blessing on the undertaking.

No problem there. Ahab is well equipped. He has a stable of four hundred spiritual yes-men on the company payroll, ready to commit God to a victory. So the question is put to them. Immediately, they all agree: "Go up, for the Lord will give it to you."

Something about that didn't ring quite right with Jehoshaphat. Was it that they were a little too quick on the draw, with an answer too pat? They didn't even bother to ask the Lord if He had an opinion.

So Jehoshaphat did what any self-respecting victim would do: he asked for a second opinion. "Isn't there another prophet of the Lord whom we may ask?"

Well, there was — but Ahab didn't care to patronize his place of business. "I hate this fellow Micaiah," he said, "for he only prophesies bad concerning me." Now Ahab wasn't paranoid — it was the honest truth! For what else could he expect once he had set his course contrary to God?

So while a runner goes for the prophet, a creative false prophet by the name of Zedekiah fashioned horns of iron and presented them to Ahab. "The Lord says you shall go to Syria to death," he lied.

This scene closes with a chorus line. All the prophets chime in and sing the same tune: "Go on and fight; the Lord will give you victory."

Act II (I Kings 22:13-28)

The messenger found Micaiah the prophet. As they returned to the palace, he told the man of God what was happening. He concluded, "Couldn't you — just this once — agree with the other prophets for a change?"

How interesting that no one wanted the truth! Just go along and agree and don't rock the boat. (How many Christian businessmen and women have heard that one, and found themselves facing some difficult decisions.)

Micaiah's decision wasn't all that difficult. "What I hear from God, I speak," he said. That's pretty cut and dried, isn't it. What's his problem, no originality? He reminds us of the baseball umpire who explained his method of calling strikes and balls: "They ain't nothin' til I call 'em."

So the question is posed by Ahab to the prophet. Nearby mill the four hundred imposters, waiting to see what Micaiah will do.

At the risk of sounding like the country fellow I am, let me point out that Micaiah did not come in a load of turnips yesterday. He knew the game these guys were playing. So he swells up pompously and announces, "Sure! Go on up and succeed! The Lord's on your side."

Well, Ahab knows ridicule when he hears it. "What did I tell you?" he says to Jehoshaphat. "This fellow only wants to hurt me." And to Micaiah: "Come on and give it to me straight." He asked for it. When the prophet finished, the king was in a cold sweat. He had heard a prophecy of his death, of the scattering and defeat of his people.

But Micaiah was not through yet. As if to say, "You've been wanting to know what God was up to, so take a look," he continued: "The Lord announced to the heavenly army that Ahab should meet death at Ramoth-gilead. The question was in how to get him there."

"So a spirit volunteered to plant lies in the mouths of Ahab's prophets, and the Lord liked the idea. Therefore, the prophets have given their assent and you are making plans to fight at Ramoth-gilead. Playing right into the hands of God."

It sounds as if Micaiah has read the SCREWTAPE Letters, by C. S. Lewis. Or vice versa. Incidentally, what do you make of a spirit in God's presence volunteering to deceive someone and the Lord agreeing to it?

Was Micaiah being creative, after all? Interesting question.

Remember Zedekiah, the prophet with the iron horns? Now he reaches over and slaps Micaiah and says sarcastically, "When did God's Spirit go from me to you?" No doubt this bit of repartee drew laughter from the crowd.

Micaiah: "You'll see. On the day when you're running into the house to hide." Not very witty, just true.

So the king has Micaiah imprisoned with a diet of bread and water. As the prophet is led away, he says: "If you make it back safely, the Lord has not spoken by me. All you people, take note."

Act III (I Kings 22:29-40)

Devious Ahab put gullible King Jehoshaphat on display on the day of battle with all his regal robes. But he himself was disguised as an ordinary soldier. Jehoshaphat would be the target.

Sure enough, the Syrian king had put a price on Ahab's head. The soldiers were to kill him at all costs. The trouble was, they couldn't find him. But a chance arrow did and brought him down. As he stood in the chariot, dying, his blood covered the floor of the vehicle. Later, as they washed it, the dogs came and licked the blood. Just as Elijah had prophesied in I Kings 21:19.

The story of the weak-evil king Ahab comes to an end. And none too soon. The history of mankind is littered with selfish tyrants who exist solely for their own pleasure and who try to use the people of God.

But God still has his Elijahs and Micaiahs. The world calls them enemies and trouble-makers, but they are God's roadblocks on hell's highway because they dare to speak the truth.

Madrid, Spain — Jose Borrás, president of the Spanish Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of the Buen Pastor Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain, spent two weeks in an evangelistic campaign in Costa Rica. Borrás preached in more than 15 different churches across the country, spoke at pastors' conferences, recorded at least six interview programs, appeared on two television shows during prime time and was featured in several newspapers. More than 322 professions of faith were made.